Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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High temperatures set back viaduct project six months

M5 WORKS DELAY DUE TO HEATWAVE

Report by Megan Archer

WORK to repair a stretch of a busy Black Country motorway has been delayed by six months – and it's all down to the weather.

Bosses at Highways England have said the recent scorching temperatures mean the mammoth project at the Oldbury Viaduct has been held up by half a year.

Waterproofing and repairs between junctions 1 and 2 on the M5 have been ongoing since April 2017, with an initial finishing date of autumn this year.

But now the date has been pushed back dramatically, and workers now hope to finish 'as soon as possible' in 2019, but cannot give a definitive date. Spokesman for Highways England James Wildman said one of the main reasons for the delay was the recent hot spell.

He said: "The weather has slowed us down. For example, waterproofing cannot be applied in temperatures over around 30°C.

Essential

"In recent weeks the surface temperature on the viaduct has been around 40°C in the daytime and so waterproofing material has had be applied overnight."

He added: "The work we are doing to repair the M5 Oldbury Viaduct is absolutely essential if drivers are to continue using it for years to come."We're committed to completing the work as quickly and as safely as possible and we're doing all we can to reduce disruption to motorists, businesses and residents."

The scheme has seen traffic filtered on to one side of the carriageway and the speed limit cut, causing delays for countless drivers the past year. A well as the weather, other reasons for the delay included a higher number of individual repairs discovered than first anticipated.

More than 6,000 repairs were found when work began, when it was originally thought there would only be 1,500. Mr Wildman added: "With the problems we have encountered in recent months we are aiming to finish the main repair work as soon as we can in 2019. We will not know the full extent of the repairs needed on the northbound carriageway or a final completion date until work there is under way."

WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF FUN, AT HADEN HILL

Having fun at the seaside theme fun day at Haden Hill House, is Maisie Hodgkinson aged six and Mia Hodgkinson, 13, from Halesowen

Ron Popple entertains with his Punch and Judy show, watched by Harry Hodgetts, aged eight

THE excitement of the seaside built up as a local museum brought the beach closer to home in Sandwell.

Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath held a number of beach days in an effort to get children and their families out of the house during the school summer holidays.

More than 700 people packed out the museum and neighbouring park on Thursday for a full range of activities that carried on through to Sunday. Children's entertainer Ron Popple and musical maestro Andy Casserley provided entertainment throughout the events. Visitors service officer at the museum, Alison Hyatt, said: "It was the full seaside experience that put on great activities for the children.

"Ron Popple's show is always popular and his balloon animals went down a treat. We had massive octopus all over the place and the children loved it. Andy Casserley's seaside sing-alongs were great too, the kids were able to play the instruments and had a whale of a time.

"Inside the museum we had seaside-themed trails and quizzes. Springfield Children's Centre provided sandpits, games and crafts for everyone. On some days we also had Go Play Sandwell providing us with a number of activities for children."

FOOTBALL

Baggies didn't need fans to make profit

WEST Bromwich Albion could have played in an empty stadium and still made a profit due to the boom in Premier League TV money, it has been revealed.

The Baggies made a £33 million pre-tax profit after revenue from ticket sales was removed, highlighting how much the reliance on income from tickets has reduced among the top clubs. The figures relate to the 2016/17 season when Albion finished 10th in their seventh consecutive Premier League season.

Albion were one of 10 Premier League clubs who would have made a profit that season without any money from fans – with profits minus ticket sales higher than any other club. It was the first season after a new eye-watering £8.3 billion TV deal was agreed with the Premier League, bringing more money into thetop flight than ever.

Matchday income represented less than 20p in every £1 that 18 Premier League clubs earned during that campaign. Burnley made a £21m pre-tax profit, followed by Hull and Southampton with £19m each.

The situation has now changed at The Hawthorns following the club's relegation last season and it is now Black Country rivals Wolves enjoying the riches of the Premier League.

ROADS

Junction blocked as pedestrian injured

A CRASH on a busy road has left a man with serious injuries. Emergency services were called to Hagley Road West, in Bearwood, close to The Kings Head pub.

The crash happened at around 1.40pm on Monday. It is believed that the man, a pedestrian, was struck by a vehicle.

A West Midlands Ambulance spokesman said: "We were called to Hagley Road at 1.40pm to reports of an RTC involving a pedestrian and a vehicle. They are currently treating a man for serious injuries."

At the time drivers were warned to avoid the area. The Midlands Air Ambulance from Cosford was sent to the scene.

The route out of the city approaching Bearwood was expected to be closed for some time.

INSIDE

FACING THE FUN AT TIPTON PARK

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Cats call after litter is abandoned

Joyce Clarke with two of the kittens

FOUR little kittens are looking for a new forever home in the Black Country.

Volunteers at Wednesbury Animal Sanctuary were shocked to discover a cat and her litter of kittens had been abandoned at the centre, but quickly took the animals in to care for them.

The new arrivals have settled in well, and the youngsters have even been given new names; Dylan, Sally, Fifi and Bonnie.

Animal welfare nurse at the centre Joyce Clarke said the felines were shaken at first, but were now being 'well-looked after' by staff.

She said: "They just want a home now.

"If we don't rehome them they will spend the rest of their lives here.

"They need a home for life, not just for a bit, because they are kittens."

The sanctuary already looks after about 30 cats and kittens, on top of the four new additions.

Joyce added that the kittens were a 'lovely bunch' and would make excellent pets for a loving family.

"They respond well to human contact but require a lot of affection," she said.

The sanctuary, based at Friar Park Farm off Kent Road, is passionate about their policy of never putting an animal to sleep if they cannot find a home, instead waiting patiently for the right family to come along.

Call 0121 502 5027 for more information.

Metro to get 50 more battery-power trams

UP to 50 more battery-powered trams are to be added to the Black Country's fleet in a major overhaul which is expected to more than treble the fleet.

The UK's first battery-powered tram was launched in Wednesbury in April by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling.

Now Transport for West Midlands(TfWM) is looking to increase its fleet from it current 21 trams to 71 to service its expanding network. Bosses say it will mean more stops and a more frequent service.

TfWM, part of the West Midlands Combined Authority, is tendering initially for 18 new trams, with the option to buy a further 32 in future, all of which can be powered by batteries. Extensions to the tram network are at the heart of a £3.4billion investment in West Midlands transport over the next decade.

This will include new suburban rail lines, cycle routes and motorway improvements in order to maximise the economic benefits of the HS2 high speed rail line.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, transport boss on the Combined Authority, said the West Midlands was 'leading the way' on sustainable public transport in the country.

"We launched the UK's first battery-powered tram earlier this year, and now we're adding more to the network.

"Eventually, this tender could treble the amount of trams operating on our network – potentially increasing our regional fleet from 21 to 71 trams."

The new trams will provide services on a number of forthcoming extensions to the network including from Wednesbury to Dudley to Brierley Hill, connecting to the existing line between Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and also the Pipers Row extension in Wolverhampton, between the bus station and redeveloped railway station.

The first of the new trams are expected to be in action by summer 2021.

Natalie's zero to hero with run

Sandwell Leisure Trust's Paul Badhams with Natalie Hall and Couch to 5K coach Hayley Birch

A WOMAN who progressed from zero to running 5,000 metres raised nearly £900 for charity after taking part in Sandwell Leisure Trust's (SLT) record breaking Couch to 5K initiative.

Natalie Hall, from Princes End, Tipton, completed the nine-week course that sees non-runners start and collectively build up to managing 5,000 metres together – and enabled her to generate £882.56 in sponsorship monies for genetic skin condition charity, DEBRA.

Miss Hall 'graduated' along with 71 other participants when completing 12.5 laps of the track at SLT facility Tipton Sports Academy on Wednesbury Oak Road. It was a record breaking occasion in terms of numbers of finishers, but also with a retention rate twice above the national average – and family, friends and work colleagues cheered them on.

The 40-year-old who is Head of English at Crestwood School in Kingswinford said: "It's been a truly amazing experience. Week one I could barely plod along for a minute, so to run a whole 5K without stopping – and really enjoy it – is so satisfying. The SLT team have been phenomenal; they're so supportive and really helped with confidence and motivation.

"To top it all off I've raised a decent amount for a charity close to my heart."

A new Couch to 5K programme will start on September 9, at Old Hill Cricket Club in Cradley Heath. See www.slt-leisure.co.uk/products/offers/couch-to-5k-family-friendly/

Ex-addict writes to say thanks for police's help

A FORMER drug addict, described as one of the most prolific shoplifters in the region, has thanked police after turning her life around.

Hayley Bridgewater, aged 30, formerly from Oldbury, used to spend £300 a day on heroin and crack cocaine. The college graduate had been holding down a steady job before her life took a nosedive when she met her new boyfriend who introduced her to a life of drugs.

It led to Ms Bridgewater amassing 24 convictions between 2012 and 2017 for theft and handling stolen goods and she was sent to prison on 10 occasions. West Midlands Police's Offender Management Unit started working with Hayley, formerly of Badsey Road, in 2015.

She was offered help accessing accommodation, drug withdrawal, mental health, education, employment and family support for her two children, but it wasn't until March 2017 that she turned her life around, following her final conviction for possessing crack cocaine.

Ms Bridgewater, who has been drug and crime-free since, said in a handwritten letter to Pc Chris Franklin: "I can't thank you enough for all you've done for me. I am so happy to be starting afresh."

Pc Chris Franklin said: "She is a completely different person; I hope her story may help others."

Biked fast food in mad M5 minutes

TALK about fast food! Do you really need a takeaway this quickly? This is the moment an Uber Eats takeaway delivery cyclist was spotted making their way along the busy M5 in Oldbury.

The M5 cyclist

Firefighters expressed their shock after he pedalled through the busy Oldbury Viaduct roadworks section. The cyclist was captured at around 11.25am on Tuesday by Oldbury firefighters who branded it 'motorway madness'.

The route between junction one at West Bromwich and two for Oldbury is busy due to the ongoing roadworks.

Watch Commander Adam Joyce, from Oldbury Fire Station, took to Twitter to highlight his concerns.

He tweeted the picture saying to Uber Eats: "Please educate your riders so that my team and I from Oldbury Fire aren't lifting a HGV off them. #MotorwayMadness." In line with the Highway Code, it is currently illegal for a cyclist to ride on a motorway.

A spokesman for Uber said: "We're currently investigating this incident.

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Fire services in £170,000 boost for good cause

WEST Midlands Fire Service has raised over £170,000 for a charity between 2017-2018. The fire service has raised £178,204.21 in total for the Fire Fighters Charity over the financial year.

Marc Hudson, station commander for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "Up until recently, the West Midlands Fire Service is a big taker from the charity and a big service user of the charity but in terms of its contribution, it has not equalled it. We formed a committee to change that.

"We want to become one of the biggest contributors to the charity.

"Given that the charity provides support and convalescence, mental health treatment for fire service staff, it's only right we try and put some funds into their pot

"There was a lot of activity undertaken across all stations. There was a supported ladder climb at Haden's Cross, a cycle ride by two station commanders, car washes, a cake sale – all sorts."

Debbie Rushbrook, The Fire Fighters Charity West Midlands Regional Fundraiser, said the charity was 'grateful' for the money raised, adding: "The money raised by the West Midlands community will go towards funding the help we provide to members of the UK fire service community who require mental, physical and social support."

City set for 'New Monaco' housing

AN ambitious development dubbed 'New Monaco' which promises 1,009 new homes on the south edge of Birmingham city centre is set to be approved by planning chiefs.

The £275m regeneration scheme at Bristol Street will feature 13 housing blocks, two of which will be towers rising to 26 and 29 storeys tall. It also includes 16,000 sq ft of ground floor retail space and a residential hub which could accommodate a gym, cinema room and function room.

The concept of the development is based on a build-to-rent model providing a mix of properties managed by a single company which can be leased on a long and short term basis.

Other aspects of the scheme include 335 underground car parking spaces.

Beer festival on

THE Old Bull's Head pub in Lower Gornal is holding a four-day summer beer and cider festival, starting today, Thursday, until Sunday.

There will be live entertainment and a barbecue.

Ex-Bunnys site bedsits decision on hold

The former Bunnys which was closed

THE site of former adult entertainment club 'Bunnys', that was closed down by the council, is to be visited by council members before a decision is made to have the property converted into bedsits.

The proposed development on 497 Hagley Road in Smethwick would see the building turned into a house of multiple occupation (HMO), catering for 10 residents.

Now, council bosses have ruled that before a decision can be made on the planning application, a site visit is necessary to assess the property, which is scheduled to take place in September. The self titled 'Birmingham's hottest massage parlour' was closed down by the council in 2015 at it's property next door at 495 Hagley Road after relocating from 497.

The 497 Hagley Road address that is being visited by the council next month was formerly a massage parlour called 'Cuddles' that also housed Bunnys before its relocation.

Cuddles was raided in 2005 by police who rescued 19 foreign women employed as sex workers.

Carl Pritchett, from Dudley, was jailed for running Cuddles in 2006. In 2010 he was jailed for a further seven years after failing to repay £2 million in illegal gains, and in 2013 Cottons Estate Agents sold the former Cuddles site as part of a court order related to the £2 million owed by Mr Pritchett.

Abbey Ward Councillor and former deputy leader of Sandwell Council, Steve Eling, said in 2015: "The site looks an eyesore on the main road into Birmingham. It would be good to see a productive use come out of them."

Restart of work on Met may be just weeks away

CONSTRUCTION work on Smethwick's stalled super hospital could resume as early as next month.

The project to build the £475 million Midland Metropolitan Hospital on the 16-acre site in Grove Lane ground to a halt in January after Wolverhampton-based construction group Carillion collapsed.

The Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which has taken back control of the site, is now aiming to have an "early works" contractor appointed and working from September 11.

It has published a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union with the aim of finding the early works contractor to take on the project.

It says: "At this time the trust wishes to enter into an early works contract with a construction company which is experienced in acute hospital construction to undertake various protective and dilapidation works designed to protect the site as far as possible until a replacement construction contractor is appointed.

Agreement

"The works will include dilapidation works and construction works aimed at the reduction of further site and/or asset dilapidation, reinforcing the resilience of the building and secure site containment."

The value of the early works contract, which is intended to run to May is anticipated to be between £13m and £20m. The contract could be extended by mutual agreement for a further period of up to six months.

Contractors looking to bid for the project need to have annual turnover of at least £80m and have until August 23 to express an interest in the job.

The contract notice also lays out a number of jobs that will be carried out by existing sub-contractors including Prater, which is set to resume general envelope works and plant room cladding.

The hospital was originally supposed to be opening in January 2019, but Carillion's collapse has set it back to 2022 at the earliest

Riding high for fun times at park

Abdurahman Rasheid aged seven and Mehar Kaur, four, at Victoria Park

At a food stall, Turan Ahmed and Mashuk Miah from Smethwick

Anisa Ahmed, six with Ishan Ullah, seven, all painted up at the fun day

IT was all smiles for The Tipton Community Fun Day at Victoria Park at the weekend.

The free local event was back in Sandwell for its 12th year on Sunday, and organisers said it was bigger and better than ever.

The day was packed full of activities for all ages including fairground rides, car boot sales, dancing, karate demonstrations, band music, bouncy castles, a climbing wall and more.

There were also health and beauty stalls as well as various cultural and traditional food stalls.

A wide range of public and voluntary organisations had also set up information stands with details on available services in the local area.

Councillor Bill Gavan, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "This long-established community event is always a highlight in the events calendar.

"It's wonderful to see community organisations and partners joining together to put on such a fabulous family event in one of our Green Flag-awarded parks."

The fun day was organised by the Bangladeshi Women's Association (BWA) in partnership with Sandwell Council, Big Lottery Fund and was supported by many partners including the Police, Tipton Development Group, Friends of the Victoria Park and others.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mac and cheese eatery now open

EAGERLY-ANTICIPATED macaroni and cheese restaurant, Holy Moly Macaroni, is now open in Birmingham's Grand Central.

Founded in 2015, Holy Moly Macaroni began as a street food stall and featured at the popular Digbeth Dining Club, sharing dishes inspired by Harlem, New York.

John Burke at Holy Moly Macaroni said: "We can't wait to see people come together to enjoy real soul food at Holy Moly Macaroni."

Open daily from 11am to 10pm, Holy Moly Macaroni is serving dishes such as its 'Uptown Mac' dish with wild mushrooms and truffle oil

Deal to save some Poundworld shops

POUNDWORLD has been rescued in a last-minute deal – but only a small number of stores are expected to be saved. Dublin retailing family, the Hendersons, who opened Ireland's original Poundworld store in 1984, have agreed a bid for the UK firm.

All of Poundworld's stores closed last week as planned, but the family will begin to reopen some.

It is not yet known if any of those in the Midlands are affected by the deal.

The Poundworld branches in Merry Hill, Bloxwich and West Bromwich were in the first round of closures.

Arrest made after huge factory fire

A 27-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of arson following a factory fire in Brierley Hill.

Up to nine fire crews tackled the blaze at its height after it broke out in Hurst Business Park, Navigation Drive, at around 4.40am on Friday.

A police spokesman said: "A 27-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of arson and he remains in police custody.

"Investigations continue and anyone with information is asked to call police on 101, quoting log 320 of 10 August."

Don fancy dress for big park run

THE Walsall Run 2018 is taking place on September 23 with a choice of 10km and 5km distances this year.

The mixed terrain run starts and finishes in the Walsall Arboretum Extension at 11am. There is also a 3km walk and team and fancy dress trophies are up for grabs. The event is organised by the Rotary Club of Walsall and runners can register from 9am on the day and enter online at www.walsallrun.com.

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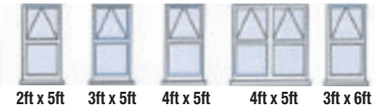
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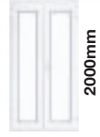
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COUNTY NEWS

Number of weekly pub closures static

THE number of pubs closing every week has remained at around 18 amid evidence that more people are choosing to drink at home, according to a new report.

There were 476 closures in the first six months of the year across the UK, 13 more than in the last six months of 2017, said the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra).

There were more than 60 pub closures a week in the North West and South East this year, with more than 50 in Greater London and the South West. Camra also reported that four out of five people had experienced a local pub closure in the past five years.

Most positive over dealings with GP

MOST patients are positive about their GP experience, a survey of almost 760,000 people has found.

Almost half of respondents described their overall experience of their practice as very good, while 37.6 per cent said it was fairly good.

Two thirds of patients who asked for a same-day appointment got one, the GP Patient Survey 2018 found, and 61.6 per cent managed to see their GP when they wanted or sooner.

However, around a third of patients who wanted to see a GP but found their practice was closed said they ended up going to A&E.

House price rise bucks forecasts

HOUSE prices grew faster than expected in July, hitting a record high as pressure on household finances begins to ease, according to Halifax.

The annual pace of house price growth rose 3.3 per cent, smashing economists' forecasts for a 2.6 per cent increase, and helping average prices hit a new record high of £230,280.

The figure compares with the 1.8 per cent rise recorded in June and represents the largest increase since last November.

Shortage of skilled workers now worse

THE shortage of skilled workers is getting worse, with most organisations now having problems recruiting suitably qualified staff.

The recruitment process is also taking longer, making it more expensive for firms to hire employees, said the Open University. Its research among almost 1,000 business leaders found that three out of five believe skills shortages have worsened."

Illegal cigarette shop in booze sales ban

A SHOP which used a dummy electrical fuse box to hide illegal cigarettes worth £7,000 has had it licence to sell alcohol revoked.

Members of Sandwell Council's Licensing Committee imposed a complete ban on the West Bromwich store selling beer, wine and spirits despite standards officers only requesting a three-month suspension.

The committee heard that more than 14,000 illegal cigarettes and 380 grams of tobacco with a retail value of £7,000 was seized from the Polski Sklep N1 store in High Street, in September. Police and trading standards found the haul in a storeroom concealed in a false fuse box. Officers also discovered the store was selling packets of 20 cigarettes for £3 instead of the normal retail price of £10.

Jaswinder Matoo, an area standards trading officer, asked the council to suspend the shop's licence for three months. He said: "It was a sophisticated attempt at avoiding detection and we would never have found them if it hadn't been for a trained tobacco dog indicating the hiding place." He added police intelligence showed illegal tobacco sales were seen as a low risk way of generating funds for more serious crimes. Shop owner Indress Ali, in response, said he had taken over the business in March and was now its sole owner. Admitting he had worked at the shop at the time of the raid and had known about the illegal sales, he said: "It was a very bad mistake and I will not do the same."

Asked what measures he had taken to ensure there was no repeat of the offences, he replied: "I want to leave the job in the future."

Plans for bedsits above shops are thrown out

Report by Liam Keen

CONTROVERSIAL plans to turn a row of properties running over shops in Smethwick into bedsits have been rejected by Sandwell Council.

Developers sent 11 separate planning applications for a string of properties covering a huge part of the high street in Bearwood Road.

But Sandwell Council bosses voted unanimously against the proposal at a planning committee meeting on Wednesday. Concerns had been raised over parking, over-concentration of residents, privacy and amenity space. Police also feared the plans could increase anti-social behaviour and theft.

Councillor Bop Piper, ward councillor for the area, abstained from the decision making to object the plans on behalf of the residents in the area. He said: "It's like building a tower block in the centre of a residential area. It will cause serious disruption to people living on Herbert Road.

"The police have stressed it could increase car crime, theft and anti-social behaviour. We can't disregard the police's advice. Two roads away there was a house that was refused a two bedroom extension because of car parking provisions, and there would be more issues with that here.

"The residents welcome investment, there's no objection to developing these shops. The objection was based on the whole strip on this road being turned into bedsits. We want to invite the developers to meet to find a solution and explore the options of turning the buildings into homes, with a solution that would also please the current residents."

The councillors voted unanimously against all 11 proposals due to a lack of guarantees from the developer on the outlined issues.

Leisure trust's top award is no accident

Lynda Bateman and Ash Rai celebrate scooping the award at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

SANDWELL Leisure Trust has been awarded the highest possible accolade at an intentionally-renowned ceremony.

SLT scooped the President's Award at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents 2018 Health and Safety Awards.

Trust officials were presented with a framed certificate at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel – dubbing the achievement a 'testament' to the team's efforts.

Ash Rai, chief executive for trust, said: "This is fantastic news and testament to the team's efforts across all the trust's facilities over the past year. Maintaining the highest standards of health and safety continues to be an absolute priority for the trust. This achievement underlines the expertise and hard work of all our teams to provide a safe environment for staff, customers and visitors across all our sites."

The new accolade comes after the trust retained the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents Award over 12 consecutive years. The RoSPA Awards focus on commitment to accident and ill-health prevention, but also occupational health and safety management systems, including practices like leadership and workforce involvement.

Calling job hopefuls as BT to bring 100 roles in

BT is creating 100 new jobs in Sandwell as part of its strategy to provide the best customer service in the UK. It is part of the company's plans to create more than 1,000 permanent UK customer service jobs and their commitment to answering 100 per cent of customer calls in call centres by 2020.

The customer adviser roles will be created across BT's Consumer division in the UK and Ireland to fulfil its promise to provide the best and most personal support for customers.

Building on the 1,100 roles created across the UK in the last year, BT Consumer will no longer use contract roles and has created these new permanent positions across a number of locations, including 100 jobs in Sandwell.

Sandwell Council leader, Steve Eling, welcomed the news of the extra job opportunities for residents in the borough.

Marc Allera, chief executive officer of BT's Consumer business, said: "We are continuing to invest across the UK to give our customers the best connections, service and experiences.

"These new roles will provide better job security, and will mean our people can focus on putting our customers first and offer the best help and support, whether on the phone or online."

Councillor Eling said: "We very much welcome the announcement by BT of the creation of new jobs in Sandwell and the opportunities this will be for local people in the employment market.

"It is good that BT see Sandwell as a place to invest in their business."

Dogs needed for lead role! as Toto

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre is looking for a dog to play the role of Toto in its Christmas production of The Wizard of Oz.

Open Auditions will be held at The REP on Centenary Square on August 25 from 10am to 5pm.

The role of Toto, Dorothy's canine companion, in The Wizard of Oz is a pivotal one and The REP is looking for a new canine star to join the company over Christmas.

The show runs from November 24 to January 13 and The REP is looking for two small dogs that have the enthusiasm and stamina to play the role over the seven-week run.

If you think your dog has what it takes,register your interest by emailing dogauditions@birmingham-rep.co.uk and attaching a picture.

Council will help decide on running of society

CUSTOMERS of the Black Country's largest building society are being invited to have a greater say in how the organisation is run.

The West Bromwich Building Society is setting up a member council for the first time in its 169-year history.

The 15-strong council will meet four times a year to share the views of the building society's membership with its board and management team.

Applications are now being invited with a view to appointing the council by October and holding its first meeting in January.

West Brom chief executive Jonathan Westhoff said: "There is growing expectation for businesses to build strong relationships with key stakeholders and use their insight to influence strategic thinking and decision making.

"For a building society, where our customers effectively own the business, this deeper level of engagement is arguably even more important."

A similar group made up of West Brom employees is also being established and will run in tandem with the member council in order to capture a diverse range of opinions.

The West Brom has around 430,000 members and operates 37 branches in the Black Country, Birmingham and parts of Shropshire and mid-Wales.

Applications can be made online or by filling out a form in any branch.

Reminder to fill in canvass form

RESIDENTS are being warned not to lose their right to vote – by completing their annual canvass form and returning it as soon as possible.

With local elections taking place next May, Sandwell Council is reminding residents to make sure they can continue to vote.

Letters are being sent to every household in the borough over the next week to check who lives there and who is eligible to vote.

Jan Britton, the council's electoral registration officer, said: "It's important that residents respond, so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in Sandwell."

For more information, call the team on 0121 569 3244.

Cafe plan at shop

A FORMER shop will be turned into a cafe, under new plans.

Plans for to turn the premises in Market Place, Wednesbury, into a hot food and takeaway-style cafe have been lodged with Sandwell Council.

220 flats to be created in £50m deal

How Westminster Works will look

A CITY centre site has been bought as part of a £50 million deal to create 220 apartments, with work due to start later this year.

Located in Digbeth in Birmingham, the site on the corner of Alcester Street and Moseley Street is within the city's Southern Gateway £1 billion regeneration zone.

Just minutes from the city's creative digital and media hub – including The Custard Factory, Fazeley Studios and the iconic shopping centre, the Bull Ring – the seven-storey Westminster Works, as the project is currently named, is intended to provide modern living within a vibrant new neighbourhood of privately-rented apartments.

The acquisition of the site by property development specialist High Street Residential paves the way for construction to get under way later in the year in partnership with Taylor Grange Developments.

Taylor Grange acquired the site 18 months ago and, through buyingt additional land, created a viable development by increasing the number of apartments to 220. Meanwhile, the companies are proceeding with a similar proposal close to The Mailbox shops complex and Birmingham's planned HS2 rail link.

With two further Second City sites being seriously considered by the consortium, investment in the private rented sector in Birmingham could rise to more than £300m, creating more than 2,000 apartments.

The High Street Group chairman Gary Forrest said: "Birmingham is a dynamic city currently undergoing significant regeneration and therefore it represents a great place to invest. "

Hospital boss allays fears A&E will close

THERE are no immediate plans to close a hospital's A&E department, its top boss has confirmed.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of the trust which runs Sandwell Hospital, has been forced to respond amid rumours over the future of the A&E.

The department is eventually due to be scaled down to become an urgent care centre when the Midland Metropolitan Hospital opens, but with the launch of the new site still at least four years away he said no changes were imminent. Mr Lewis was challenged by the independent Healthwatch group at a recent board meeting.

A record of the meeting said: "Mr Bill Hodgetts from Healthwatch expressed concern around the number of complaints they are receiving in relation to the rumours of the closure of the A&E department at Sandwell Hospital.

Highlighted

"Mr Lewis replied that he was content to meet with Healthwatch to go through and respond to those complaints accordingly. He highlighted that with the opening of Midland Met, Sandwell A&E will become a 24-hour Urgent Care Centre.

Given the delays with the opening of Midland Met, there would be the need for reconfiguration of services. However, at the present time, this did not include the closure of the A&E department at Sandwell Hospital."

The assurance comes after it was revealed last week the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust has been given seven months to meet national waiting time targets. Bosses at the trust which runs Sandwell Hospital will aim to have 95 per cent of patients seen within four hours by March. It represents a huge challenge for the trust, which has not met the national standard for the last two years.

A 'rapid improvement plan' has been drawn up in a bid to improve waiting times, including treating patients sent by GPs away from A&E and introducing new staff rotas.

The March deadline comes following talks with NHS Improvement, which aims to ensure patients receive the best care.

Cyrille's widow in wall walk hope

Julia Regis, with her husband Cyrille, in whose memory she is taking on the Great Wall of China

THE wife of the late West Bromwich Albion legend Cyrille Regis is tackling the Great Wall of China in his honour.

Julia Regis is taking on the huge challenge 40 years after the man himself walked part of the wall as a member of the West Brom team from 1978. Twenty one volunteers will walk 50 miles of the wall over five days in October and the money raised from the walk will go towards The Albion Foundation and the Cyrille Regis Legacy Trust.

Julia said: "I'm really looking forward to an adventure. I'm a little bit apprehensive, I've never done anything like this, it's a huge challenge."

Cyrille had planned to take on the event himself in aid of the foundation before his passing in January. Julia added: "I remember him talking about it and we were saying what an exciting opportunity it is.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chin-chin with gin as festival begins

GIN lovers will be able to enjoy a selection of gins from the UK and overseas during an 11-day festival at a West Bromwich pub.

The Billiard Hall, in St Michael's Street, will be serving gins from Japan, Portugal, Spain, Germany and Italy, as well as those produced in the UK.

The festival kicks-off tomorrow, Friday, and runs until Monday, August 27. There will be numerous award-winning gins among the selection, as well as a choice of flavoured gin.

Luke Field, manager, said: "The festival promises to be great fun."

Teenager stabbed in daylight attack

A TEENAGER was stabbed in a daylight attack after trouble flared in a Tipton street.

Emergency services were called to the scene outside a hairdressers in Park Lane East, Dudley Port, last Tuesday. Police arrived at around 3pm after reports of a man being found with stab wounds.

One ambulance and paramedic officer attended and treated the man at the scene, before he was taken to hospital. Anyone with information can call police on 101 quoting crime reference 20SW/179334Z/18.

City marks half a century of reggae

A MUSIC festival, four-week film series and art exhibition will celebrate 50 years of reggae throughout October. Birmingham's Punch Records is organising BASS 2018.

There will be contributions from some of the biggest names in reggae. Punch chief executive Ammo Talwar said: "As the festival approaches its 12th presentation, we are proud to herald the incredible achievements that reggae has accomplished."

It will also celebrate 40 years since the release of Steel Pulse's album Handsworth Revolution.

Ask Angela for help in the pub

WOMEN who feel threatened or intimidated in pubs can ask for help by simply saying, 'Ask Angela'.

The phrase is a code to alert bar staff in Sandwell when a woman is subject to inappropriate comments or unwanted attention.

The scheme is being rolled out across the borough's public houses and nightclubs using posters in toilets to tell women how they can ask for help.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Now is it all change if we moan enough?

ACCORDING to a poll commissioned by that bastion of impartiality People's Vote, an organisation set up to campaign for a second referendum on leaving the EU, about half the population of the UK think it would be a good idea. Who'd have thought it?

As opinion polls go, it sounds about as authoritative as the old Whiskas advert which said eight out of 10 cats preferred their food. Still, they could be on to something. Perhaps it sets a precedent that any result we don't like can be reversed if we moan enough.

The Championship play-off final, for example, was a huge mistake. Villa should clearly have won. Time for a group called People's Final to commission a poll outside Villa Park at, say, 5.45 on a Saturday afternoon.

As for that World Cup semi-final against Croatia...

❒❒❒

THAT said, if there is one group more fanatical than the EU zealots, it must be militant cyclists.

Not the millions of ordinary people who simply enjoy riding bikes, you understand. While I don't understand the appeal myself, particularly if it means turning up at your destination dripping with sweat and needing a change of clothing, I do recognise that many people do. Each to their own, and all that.

The people I'm talking about are those on a mission to convert the rest of us to their way of thinking. They spend thousands on bizarre clothing, subscribe to all the magazines, and never stop boring the rest of us about their virtuous lifestyle. And for some reason, they view themselves as some kind of marginalised minority group warranting special treatment.

Over the weekend transport minister Jesse Norman announced proposals to update road safety laws following the death last year of Kim Briggs at the hands of cyclist Charlie Alliston. Because dangerous driving laws do not extend to cyclists, the prosecution had to rely on a charge of "wanton and furious driving" under an 1861 act aimed at horse-drawn carriages. As a result, Alliston was let off with an 18-month sentence, and is presumably at liberty once more.

You would think any reasonable person would be in favour of closing this loophole. But after a few hours of rage from the cycling zealots on Twitter the minister issued a timid apology.

I'm not sure which is the most pathetic. The siege mentality of the cycling nuts, or the craven minister who lacked the backbone to stand up to them.

Boris wades in once again, where others fear to tread

Blackadder's First World War futility – but Amiens was a battle which turned the tide

Boris's burka blast was not as much of a tub-thumping tirade as you might expect

Julian Lory, who was told to do some DIY policing after reporting his tools had been stolen

Taxing times for pay-up politeness

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

STILL no reply from TV Licensing on why their reminders have adopted a more threatening tone of late. In the meantime, a reader points out that the vehicle-tax reminder from the DVLA now begins: "Tax it or lose it." First the threat, then the demand for money. And we pay their wages. I seem to remember a time when every communication from the Civil Service ended: "I remain your most obedient servant."

THE way things are going it's only a matter of time before all these official reminders begin with: "Pay up or we'll send the boys round."

GREAT dates in history. August 8, 2018: Britain discovers the Battle of Amiens. This week's wall-to-wall coverage of the centenary of the battle was a lesson for the nation, delivered rather late.

THE problem this country's influential liberal-Left has always had with the First World War is that for almost 100 years the only acceptable narrative was one of butchery, failure, waste, stupidity, lions led by donkeys, Blackadder and Oh, What a Lovely War. So it's a bit awkward having to explain to a forgetful and ignorant nation that Britain and her Allies, led by the same "donkeys" as in 1916, actually won the war in the summer and autumn of 1918. They did it in a series of fast, mobile battles, skilfully co-ordinating armour, artillery, air power and infantry in a way never seen before. The Tommies of 1918 were proud of their victories, and we should be, too.

I AM not a fan of Boris Johnson. He was a dismal foreign secretary and would be a monumentally bad prime minister. But as a commentator and columnist who gets the nation talking, he is in a class of his own. And if you haven't read his Daily Telegraph column on the burka, then do. After all the fuss and fury, you may expect to find a beer-hall rant, a tub-thumping demand for burkas to be banned. It is exactly the opposite.

JOHNSON'S column is a timely, considered, intelligent and humane plea for Britain not to follow Denmark and France by imposing a ban on all face-coverings. Johnson clearly dislikes such forms of dress - hence his "letter box" jibe - but there is absolutely no way that his column, in an upmarket newspaper, could stir up racial or religious hatred - although some of the hysterical and politically-inspired reactions to it might. The howling-down, the demands for him to be punished are chilling. We are supposed to live in a free country. Some days I barely recognise it.

AND off to the car-accessory showroom where the staff have all been issued with headphones and Britney-style microphones, enabling them to communicate across the store. The result is a weird detachment. The lady at the till is looking at you and talking but she is not talking to you. She is talking to Carl in roof racks & camping and that sweet smile is for him, not you. So when you smile back, she looks at you as though you're mad. One day all these jobs will be done by robots. I don't think we will notice the difference.

WHILE he was busy repairing a roof in a Devon village, Julian Lory had £8,000 worth of tools stolen by burglars. Police advised him to "go door to door" and see if he could "generate a line of inquiry." No surprises there, then. The days are long gone when the constabulary responded to ordinary crimes inflicted on ordinary people. The best Mr Lory can hope for is that one day he'll get a call that goes: "Hi, Julian. It's Pc Bloggs here at the local nick. Thing is, we've got a hole in the roof and wondered if you could fix it for us." And Mr Lory will have the exquisite joy of replying: "No. I've got a better idea. Buy a trowel and some nails and a bucket full of mastic and then get yourself a ladder and . . ."

HERE'S something to worry about when the drought goes away. After the discovery of water beneath the surface of Mars, a scientist popped up on telly to stress the absolute necessity of not contaminating Martian microbes with germs from Earth. Fair point. But to be honest I'm more worried about humankind's eternal quest for knowledge resulting in a vial of Martian microbes being brought to Earth – and someone dropping it.

AS any father will tell you, heroism is not part of the job description. But there was one moment in 1990 when I came home from work and presented my four-year-old daughter with something that made me the hero of the hour. I'd been interviewing a pair of North Country comedians and although I'd barely heard of them, my little girl was a huge fan. She still has that autographed photo of the Chuckle Brothers. Barry Chuckle died a few days ago and I bet a lot of 30-somethings shed a tear.

TALKING POINT

Doctor's orders on row over parking

IN reply to Mark Shipp's comments on the parking of emergency vehicles.

To begin with, the parking warden had actually been trained by EuroPark to not give out parking tickets to emergency vehicles so I would say he actually wasn't doing his job properly.

But to be honest, I don't even think that is the point.

Whether you think EuroPark actually trained him this way or he was being a jobsworth is up to you.

Mark 'agreed' with the fact that emergency workers need a drink during a long shift but didn't actually give any solutions to the problem.

Where they parked wasn't ideal but there was actually nowhere else nearby to park.

And on another point, this was private parking, so there are no actual 'laws' pertaining to this.

What I would like to ask Mark is how exactly does he think these hardworking, often self-sacrificing people will be able to drink, eat or even use the toilet if they have nowhere to park?

They may not have been on an emergency call (you don't exactly see a blue light to pick up a sandwich from Tesco's!) but they're always on stand-by for them.

So my question to you is – how would you feel if you called an ambulance for someone you cared about, someone very ill, possibly dying – and it took too long to arrive?

This is the reality of the situation if emergency workers find somewhere 'legal' to park.

If their ambulance is parked 20 minutes away and they have to run back, this loses precious time that they could be treating the patient.

And in some situations, minutes can mean life or death.

Would you really begrudge an ambulance parking on double yellows, would you be willing to run that risk?

Unfortunately these days in the current state of the NHS, a break doesn't necessarily mean a break. If often means ramming a sandwich down your throat as fast as possible and moving on to the next patient.

Our breaks are supposed to be protected but be realistic, are we going to sit down and relax with a cup of tea or down it and do our job?

It's hard being an emergency worker.

Please try to walk a mile in our shoes before you criticise.

We are people, not super humans so please don't begrudge us a quick sandwich in between saving people's lives.

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Arguments for HS2 don't stand up

THANK you for publishing the article regarding is it too late to slam the brakes on HS2? (Express & Star, Saturday July 28). Most of the arguments put forward by the Government to support HS2 are completely without foundation. It is simply untrue for the Government to say that the current rail routes are full to capacity.

I regularly travel on the West Coast railway line between London and Manchester, and there are lengthy periods between trains with the signals at green. Many of the train 'paths' are taken up by four and five coach trains which could be lengthened if demand was there.

I travelled standard class on the 16:35 Pendelino from Manchester to Euston recently, and the train left with just 10 passengers spread throughout the four first class coaches (145 seats), which is fairly typical. Two of the four coaches could be converted to standard class to boost capacity.

HS2 has already wasted a huge amount of taxpayers' money; their chairman Simon Kirby, who left HS2 after two years to having been paid £750,000 a year, to join Rolls Royce. Their chief financial officer, Steve Allen, was forced to resign following a report by the NAO that showed that HS2's redundancy payments had exceeded the rates set by DfT by a huge £1.76m.

Construction will not start before Christmas 2018, as it will still be in advanced planning and design, so there is still time to see sense and cancel this project. After all, £55 billion to get a few elite businessmen home 20 minutes earlier?

ADAM SMITH
Wylde Green

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
graeme.andrew@expressandstar.co.uk

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Our MPs scuppering JC's cause

WHY is it that every time the media report that the Labour Party is moving slightly ahead in the opinion polls – one or another of our West Midlands Labour Party MP's has to grab the headlines with acts against leader Jeremy Corbyn.

With a possible General Election pending after the summer recess we are again seeing further acts of disloyalty. If they have a disagreement surely they should do like the rest of us and use the party's internal procedures instead of headline grabbing. My own theory is that these same MP's would rather remain on the back benches than support JC as Prime Minister.

As for Jeremy Corbyn himself, he must be a very patient and compassionate person to stand for all of this? Perhaps he has already sussed out that when the time comes the Labour Party membership will sort out these rogue MPs.

PAUL AGG
Wednesbury

Cliff situation must never happen again

IN response to Mr Gough's letter, whilst we totally agree, Cliff did point out that he was in the fortunate position to afford paying to take up the case against the BBC, and Yorkshire Police, whereas other people would not be able to do so. He spent £4 million fighting them in the court and how fantastic that he won the case, with follow-on costs also paid.

Another important point: who is the perpetrator who brought the case in the first place, and accused him? Where are their names in the press, surely they should be charged with false accusation.

The atrocious treatment of Sir Cliff by the BBC should not be allowed to happen to anyone again.

JEAN AND MICHAEL SAMPSON
Kingswinford

Why blue badges for mentally

PETER Rhodes says blue badges may be given to sufferers of autism and mental illness. Apparently supporters of this have stickers branding others as pig ignorant. I suffer from stress, anxiety and depression. Last time I checked they were forms of mental illness, as is OCD. Therefore I am qualified to make comment without being pig ignorant.

Why ever these justify a blue badge is beyond me. In fact if I needed a blue badge for anxiety should I be on the road at all? I do however have arthritic knees and ankles and need a walking aid, usually a shopping trolley. Still, I have seen large SUVs in disabled bays, and wonder how a person with mobility problems gets in and out. The proposals are more than absurd; they are a licence to park where and whenever, and for free. That is some pay-off for being depressed.

ROBERT W WHITE
Wigmore

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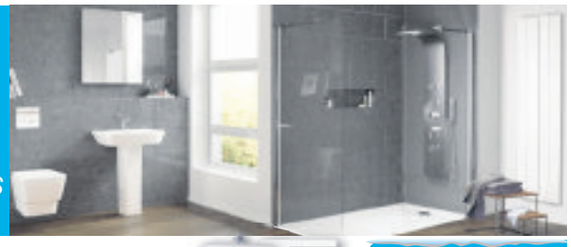

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Three jailed on fire safety breaches at shisha lounge

Firefighters seen at the scene of the devastating blaze which erupted on Christmas Day in 2013

THREE men have been jailed for fire safety breaches after a 'devastating' blaze at a shisha lounge in Birmingham. A man and a woman who were trapped by the Christmas Day blaze in 2013 jumped for their lives from a second-floor window.

However, they then found themselves trapped again and surrounded by flames in a courtyard. Both suffered various injuries and smoke inhalation.

A dog fell to its death as the burning floor of its owner's sleeping accommodation collapsed beneath it.

Numerous fire safety offences were uncovered by West Midlands Fire Service following the incident. It was suspected arson, but there is no suggestion that any of the trio started it.

Kazim Mashedi, aged 46, of Redfern Close in Solihull; Sulaman Rahid, 30, of Linwood Road in Handsworth; and Waquas Rehman, 30, of Calshot Road in Great Barr, were all found guilty of fire safety offences at Birmingham Crown Court on Tuesday.

Mashedi was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and ordered to pay nearly £15,000 in costs.

Rahid and Rehman were each jailed for eight months and ordered to pay costs of £6,000.

Fire safety officer and watch commander Chris Ruston said: "A large part of the shisha premises had been built from timber, without planning permission. It was packed with sofas which became a ready source of fuel once the fire started.

"We hope this case sends a very strong message to people with any degree of control over premises. You are responsible for the safety of anyone who may be affected by a fire, and you can be fined or sent to prison if you do not ensure that people aren't at risk. Fire safety is not something you can ignore."

Welcome on return of services

PLANS to re-instate life-saving cancer treatment at Sandwell and City Road hospitals have been welcomed by a councillor who said he was 'shocked' services were suspended in the first place.

An announcement by NHS England that it is to commission solid tumour and chemotherapy services at the two sites will see a return to locally delivered treatment for nearly 2,000 patients. In October 2017, a temporary change to services meant patients would receive care from oncologists at the Queen Elizabeth or New Cross Hospital.

More than 1,900 patients had to travel miles for their life-saving procedures and the NHS paid out £50,000 to transport cancer sufferers to their new treatment centres.

Katherine O'Connell, NHS England's regional director of specialised commissioning, presenting a report to a meeting of Birmingham and Sandwell councillors said there was: "Very strong support for locally delivered services."

Sandwell Councillor Bob Lloyd said: "I'm a little shocked, it seems that we have gone through all of this, the transfer, a consultation and everything else when it seems it is an 'I told you so' situation and we also had £50,000 on additional transport costs."

Ex-patient in £135 boost for hospital

A FORMER hospital patient has netted £135 for coronary care after holding a charity football match.

Grateful Walsall Manor Hospital patient Andy Wood raised the cash after he spent more than two months there in 2013. He organised a match between Great Barr Rangers XI and Walsall Legends at Sutton Coldfield Town FC. Rangers won 8-2.

Pond fenced off as rotting geese found

A POND at a Smethwick park has been fenced off after dead geese were left 'rotting' in the water.

Residents said that Canada geese had been left in a pond in Victoria Park for weeks – with some of them decomposing into skeletons. It was claimed there were more than 10 dead birds in the water last week – but Sandwell Council has now fenced off the pool.

Leisure chief Councillor Bill Gavan, said: "Our staff are taking action to remove the dead birds as soon as they spot them. It is suspected that these birds may have been affected by avian botulism, which sadly is common during periods of very warm weather.

"As a precaution we have fenced off the pool at Victoria Park. There is no need for alarm. We would ask people to stay away from open water at these parks. Dogs should also be kept away."

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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Family Information Service

Jail for knifeman in Christmas pub attack

A KNIFEMAN has been jailed for stabbing a reveller at a Christmas pub party.

Yusaf Mohammed plunged the knife into his 22-year-old victim's chest when violence erupted in the smoking area at the Old Horns pub in Great Barr at 12.45am on Christmas Day in 2015.

The man went on to make a full recovery but was lucky to survive after the knife narrowly avoided puncturing his heart.

Officers soon identified 24-year-old Mohammed – known locally as 'Biggsy' – as a suspect and later that day officers traced him to an address in Dunedin Road, Kingstanding.

He had fled the area but officers found clothes matching those worn by the attacker drying on a radiator having been washed by Mohammed in a bid to remove any DNA evidence.

Yusaf 'Biggsy' Mohammed

The Old Horns pub on Queslett Road

Trouble

Investigating officer Pc Mandy Dorrington, from West Midlands Police, said: "There was no trouble during the evening – everyone seemed to be merry and enjoying themselves – but trouble flared just after closing time as people were milling around outside.

"It's not known exactly what sparked the disorder but an argument broke out between two men and for some reason Mohammed waded in and stabbed one of the men.

"CCTV shows the victim collapse on a grass verge near the pub car park. He was lucky to survive."

When he was arrested on January 29, 2016, Mohammed denied being involved and claimed it was a case of mistaken identity – despite a key witness picking him out as the offender.

However, a jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court was shown CCTV evidence and heard from a witness who saw Mohammed with a knife in the pub toilets. On Friday, Mohammed was found guilty of wounding and sentenced to six-and-a-half years behind bars.

Another man, aged 20 at the time, suffered a serious head injury after being knocked unconscious during the brawl. His attacker, 20-year-old Jake Thomason, of Beacon Road, Pheasey, will be sentenced for wounding later this month.

Pc Dorrington added: "This was a complex investigation, with lots of witness accounts and CCTV to be gathered, but I am pleased Mohammed has now finally been brought to justice."

Car boot boost for market

A NEW car boot sale in Wednesbury has been hailed a success by council bosses. More than 30 car booters and traders turned up for the first event at the town's market on Saturday.

The weekly sale will continue every Saturday between 9am and 2pm on the market, next to Morrisons.

Councillor David Hosell, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "We had free face-painting and an entertainer to make the first one special, and we are really pleased by how many sellers and buyers who came along."

Pitches are £5.10 each. Traders don't need to book in advance and can turn up from 8am.

For more information, call the market manager on 0121 553 3074.

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The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors, sliding patio doors, french double doors and porches.

Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country. Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

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Some of the taller plants in front of a sectioned off part with a trellis

Rose bushes on display by the path

A riot of colour as Dennis shows off the fruits of his labour

Determined Dennis digs in

OLDBURY resident Dennis Amos has been reaping the rewards of his hard work after his beloved garden bloomed for summer.

The former self-employed builder, aged 73, has persevered through potentially hugely-damaging spells of weather throughout the year

From the early year cold spell to the complete opposite more recently with the extremely hot temperatures, he has managed to produce a garden which visitors have described as 'immaculate'.

Variation

With 30 varieties of plants, 32 hanging baskets and 31 pots and cups, the garden is certainly not short of variation, putting on a display of plants ranging from geraniums and petunias, to marigolds and mirabelles. Specialist features of the garden include four different types of sunflower and red, white and blue sweet peas in celebration of the recent royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle back in May.

The garden attracts many visitors who marvel at its beauty.

Mr Amos, who has been a passionate gardener for four years, credits his successes to 'hard work', working up to eight hours a day on the garden, some days from 5am to 9pm, through rain, wind or shine.

He added: "At the end of the day it makes me happy, it makes other people happy and really is what it is all about."

As a nature enthusiast who prefers the calm chirp of birds to the noise of the road, Mr Amos is particularly appreciative of the various wildlife that flock to his garden.

Regular visitors include song thrushes, sparrows, squirrels and insects, which he takes great enjoyment in capturing on camera.

But he has also had to take the measure of installing two scarecrows, Bert and Holly, to prevent the wildlife feeding on his hard work.

Mr Amos has also been lucky enough to have had the support of his children during the course of the year – Steven, Simon and Louise – and his four young grandchildren – Jessica, Emily, Natalie and Daniel – who have also lent a helping hand.

Brakes are put on velodrome bid for Games

THE Black Country faces a Commonwealth Games snub with hopes appearing dashed of hosting cycling events and the building of a multi-million pound velodrome.

Birmingham 2022 organisers have committed to hosting track and road cycling as part of the 2022 games – on the London Olympic velodrome 130 miles away.

Almost 5,000 people have signed a petition calling on organisers to reconsider and demand the Black Country is made part of wider cycling competition programme.

Wolverhampton has been called on to bid to host road cycling events with its historic links to the first-ever race on public streets in the city more than 70 years ago.

Cycling legend Percy Stallard defied the then-national body, the NCU, to hold the road race from Llangollen finishing in Wolverhampton's West Park on June 7, 1942.

David Viner, who is a trustee of Halesowen Cycling Club, has helped galvanise support for the campaign to widen its scope.

Wolverhampton cycling legend Hugh Porter is also lending his support.

Colleagues have helped design a route which would showcase the area such as Wolverhampton city centre, Wightwick Manor, Himley House, Dudley Castle, The Black Country Living Museum in addition to Bridgnorth and countryside of the Severn Valley. He would also like organisers to still consider building a smaller training velodrome to allow competitors to training in the Midlands ahead of the games.

Mr Viner said: "As the Tour de France and many other major cycle races have demonstrated there is no better way of advertising the finest features of a region than TV covering a cycle road race.

"The cycle road races will provide the perfect opportunity for the public to witness a major part of the Commonwealth Games passing through their communities." However it is believed that Coventry and Warwick is thought to be the front-runner to host road-racing as part of the games

Anyone wishing to back the campaign can sign at www.change.org and search for 'West Midlands velodrome'.

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With origins back to 1921, the original family business began selling reclaimed household items

Two episodes of Coronation Street were filmed at the Manchester store. Cousins also furnished Carla's apartment

An episode of Top Gear involving Richard Hammond was filmed in the car park at the Birmingham store

Robert Shotton, Founder, met Prince Charles after carpeting the Help the Heroes family room at QE Hospital, Birmingham

Ashley in £90m deal buyout of store firm

THE fate of Birmingham's former Rackhams store lies in the hands of tracksuit tycoon Mike Ashley after his Sports Direct business bought House of Fraser for £90 million.

The department store's 700 staff, and nearly 16,000 more at branches up and down the country, are now waiting to discover what Mr Ashley has planned for them.

Stores, including Beatties, delayed opening until 11am yesterday as workers were briefed about the takeover, but it is understood they have been told nothing about the future of their branches.

John Spellar, Labour MP for Warley, said Midlands stores should only be closed if there is no other option: "I hope every endeavour is taking to keep them running as a going concern and it is not just a slash and burn, to keep it's position in town centres in the interests of shoppers and staff."

Wednesbury businessman Ninder Johal, a board member at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and former Black Country Chamber of Commerce president, said the move by Mr Ashley provided hope for stores which had previously been written off.

Rackhams in Corporation Street and another 30 of House of Fraser's 59 stores had looked doomed to close this Christmas under a rescue deal called a CVA, or company voluntary arrangement, that was intended to bail out the rest of the business.

Transferred

But that deal collapsed and management put House of Fraser into the hands of administrators from accountancy giant EY yesterday. They then struck the deal with Mr Ashley.

Around 5,900 people work for House of Fraser and another 10,100 at concessions within stores. Staff have all been transferred to Sports Direct.

Around 6,000 work at the 31 stores that had been set for closure, including nearly 280 at the Beatties store in Wolverhampton, 150 work at Telford and 80 at Shrewsbury. The deal was struck through a pre-pack administration process, where a company is put into administration before a new buyer cherry picks the best assets.

There was some surprise that Mr Ashley bought all the stores, rather than just the 28 top performers identified by House of Fraser management in the aborted CVA rescue plan. It remains unclear whether he has his own plans to keep all the stores open, or if he and his management team are currently drawing up their own list of closures.

The tycoon beat off competition from retail rival Philip Day, the billionaire owner of Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

Sources said that Mr Ashley will now begin the process of turning some House of Fraser stores into Sports Direct outlets and rebrand others under his Flannels luxury fascia.

Warburtons staff may go on strike

DRIVERS at baking giant Warburtons are considering strike action over contract terms and conditions.

Around 40 disgruntled employees from Warburtons' Wednesbury plant have now put a plan in place they are 'willing to execute', sources say. Workers have said they are willing to strike over plans to scrap the current 45-hour contract and introduce a new 43-hour contract – reportedly cutting wages by up to £1,200 a year.

It is believed up to 60 of the 90 drivers at Warburtons' Wednesbury site are due to be moved onto the new contract – with the baking firm said to be currently holding a consultation over the plans and carrying out one to one meetings with staff.

Meanwhile, workers met at the Gospel Oak pub in Tipton last Thursday morning to ballot on the decision to strike, with 40 in favour and one against. A member of management from the pub said: "Talks are on-going for the time being." But an anonymous employee, who has worked at the site for the last 12 years, said that the company was 'adamant' on the change – despite the potential of a five-day long strike.

Warburtons were contacted for comment but failed to respond.

Wolverhampton to Walsall link stations may be back on track within three years

Report by Megan Archer

NEW railway stations in Willenhall and Darlaston could be up and running in as little as three years' time, as the final piece of land needed has officially been acquired.

The West Midlands Combined Authority wants to bring rail routes back into public use, including Willenhall's old station on Bilston Street and Darlaston's in James Bridge.

The two new stations will operate as part of the Walsall to Wolverhampton line, and the move brings to an end years of wrangling over a new station for both towns.

The project has been proposed on numerous occasions since the original sites closed in 1965.

But now it is one step closer to becoming reality, as property development and investment company St Francis Group has sold seven acres of land at Bentley Point, Cemetery Road in Darlaston to the WMCA. Walsall Council leader Councillor Sean Coughlan said: "This is good news for the town and surrounding area.

Ensure

"The station will serve an area we have marked for regeneration and connect it to Walsall and Wolverhampton. When the Transport Minister visited the site of Willenhall railway station he said he saw it opening up a site of economic activity. I will be calling on the council to ensure the land around the station in Darlaston fits the same purpose."

An £18 million budget has been created for both stations, which will see hourly trains from Walsall to Wolverhampton, as well as hourly trips from Birmingham to Wolverhampton via Tame Bridge, Darlaston and Willenhall.

They could open as early as 2021 if construction runs smoothly. The project forms part of West Midlands Mayor Andy Street's plans to bring defunct rail routes back into public use.

Currently, the Walsall to Wolverhampton line does not have regular scheduled passenger services, after they were withdrawn in 2008, meaning train users between both places must travel in and out of Birmingham New Street.

In 2012, a proposal was unveiled for a £4m station with two platforms and car park on Bilston Street, Willenhall, but the plans fell through.

Last year Walsall Council and Transport for West Midlands, the WMCA's transport arm, submitted a bid for Government funding for a new station.

However, the bid was turned down by the Department for Transport.

Mr Street has also pledged to get the Stourbridge to Walsall line back up and running as part of wide ranging congestion-busting plans.

Town to remember hero Sgt Colley, 100 years on

Report by Fiona Armstrong

A PARADE and service will be held in Smethwick for First World War Victoria Cross recipient Sergeant Harold Colley – 100 years to the day since his heroic sacrifice on the Western Front.

Everyone is welcome to join the event on Saturday 25 August at Victoria Park, Smethwick, where a commemorative paving stone will be unveiled in Sergeant Colley's memory.

The event runs from 10am to 11.30am, with the parade in the park starting at 10.30am and a service at 11am. The event is being co-ordinated by the Royal British Legion and Sandwell Council.

Sergeant Colley – who was living in Cheshire Road, Smethwick, when he joined the Army – was killed defending against a German attack at Martinpuich, France, on August 25,1918.

He is the last of the three Sandwell-born Victoria Cross recipients from the Great War to be honoured with one of the Government's commemorative VC paving stones. Colley was also posthumously awarded the Military Medal for his bravery under fire earlier in 1918.

Wrought

Smethwick Heritage Centre will be open for the event, where people can find out more about Sergeant Colley's life and service. The centre will also provide refreshments after the service.

Sergeant Colley's great nephew Ian West, who will be attending the service, said: "We are very pleased that Smethwick is remembering a local lad wrought of the iron, stone and coal of the Black Country who, before he was 25, gave his life for England in a war not of his making.

"He showed this grit enough to win both the Military Medal and the Victoria Cross, but he should be remembered as a representative of all those who died in those dark days. It is sad that my Uncle Norman, who did more than anyone to keep Harold's memory alive, did not himself live to see this day."

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "Sergeant Colley was a brave son of Smethwick who paid the ultimate price for our country and, like so many others, did not return home. This service and the commemorative stone at Victoria Park will help ensure his story and his sacrifice are remembered by people in Smethwick now and by future generations."

Sgt Harold Colley, who died during a German attack in France on August 25, 1918

Councillor Steve Melia, chair of the Sandwell Armed Forces and Veterans Parades' Committee, said: "We are very proud to be supporting this special event for Sergeant Colley. These parades and services are important as we commemorate military events from the past and show our support for our Armed Forces today. We will also be honouring the fallen of the Great War when we mark the centenary of the end of the war in November with services and parades across Sandwell." Harold John Colley was born in Winson Street and attended Dudley Road Council School. He worked at Henry Pooley & Sons and then at J & R Griffin Ltd, a silversmiths in Hockley Street, where he became a silver spinner.

He was a member of Smethwick Baptist Church in Regent Street. He was wicket-keeper for the church's Mission Cricket Eleven.

He was also a notable gymnast and an active member of the Smethwick Crescent Wheelers Cycling Club.

He joined up on 1 September 1914 as a private with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. He started out with the Army Cyclist Corps. In the early months of the war these cyclists were used as advance cavalry armed with Lewis guns and organised in small groups. He then moved on to become a despatch rider.

In March 1917, Colley was wounded while digging out two men buried by a mortar bomb, while under heavy fire.

He was promoted to Lance-Corporal and received a certificate of Meritorious Conduct for his actions following a despatch by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig on April 9, where his "gallant and distinguished services in the field" were praised. He was sent back to England for treatment. After his recuperation, he was transferred to the 10th Lancashire Fusiliers.

Colley was awarded the Military Medal for his actions at Beaumont Hamel on June 4, 1918. At 2.30am the Germans bombarded the front of the 52nd Brigade and then at 2.40am attacked with infantry. The 10th Lancashire Fusiliers and the 7th Yorkshire Regiment bore the brunt of this attack with the Germans making good use of their old trench positions to break into the Fusiliers' front lines.

Promoted

They managed to overwhelm the left flank but on the right they were met with vigorous Lewis gun fire. The sergeant and four other men were wounded but Colley took two men with him and bombed the nearest trench, succeeding in ejecting the intruders at 2.50am.

A good many casualties were inflicted on the enemy but the battalion lost an officer and 12 men killed, 21 men wounded and two officers and 13 other ranks missing. For this action, Colley was promoted to the rank of Acting Sergeant. The deed for which he was awarded his VC took place at Martinpuich. During a strong counter-attack, Sergeant Colley's company was holding an advanced position with two platoons in advance and two in support.

The forward platoons were ordered to hold on at all costs and Sergeant Colley went, without orders, to help these two platoons. He rallied the men, then formed a defensive flank and held it, although out of the two platoons only three men remained unwounded and the sergeant himself was dangerously wounded and died the same day.

He is buried in Mailly Wood Cemetery near Albert in France. His medals are held in the Fusilier Museum, Bury, Lancashire. For details on how Sandwell is commemorating the centenary of the end of the war, go to our www.sandwell.gov.uk/firstworldwar100 webpage.

From doorstop to auction with sale of rare Buddha figure

A PIECE of oriental history has come to the Black Country with an auction firm selling a number of rare Asian Buddhas that could fetch up to £12,000 – but one of them was being used as a doorstop.

The rare artefacts were found among 300 other collectables from an estate in London, from a couple where one has passed away and the other has gone into care. The iconic pieces were dotted around the building, hiding in cupboards and sitting on coffee tables, with one even being used to prop open a door.

The collection of nine gold and bronze Buddha's herald from China and Thailand and are believed to be from the 16th century Ming dynasty. Now, the family of the owners have chosen Stourbridge-based firm Fieldings Auctioneers to sell the Buddhas at an auction on Saturday September 1.

Fieldings' Asian Art expert Will Farmer, who's also an expert on BBC's Antiques Roadshow, said: "The couple were collectors and had an amazing life travelling the world picking up hundreds of items. Out of these we found these fantastic Asian Buddhas, that were spectacularly dotted all over the house.

"The market for Asian art has sky-rocketed in the last 10 years. China's economy has exploded and has become a major world player and now all these wealthy CEO's and business owners want their artefacts and antiques back. We expect the highest valued Buddha to fetch between £8,000-£12,000, but you really can't tell with these items. Two people could go toe to toe online and keep bidding for them and the price can keep climbing.

"Jobs like these excite me to come into work. I've been in this job for 20 years and it's probably the best collection I've dealt with in the last 10 years, it's certainly in my top three jobs in my career, anything from the Ming dynasty is exciting and we're really chuffed to be helping sell them.

The money from the auction will go back to the family and the estate, with the auction house dividing the 300 items between the auction in September that will feature the Buddha's and another auction in October.

Mark Hannam from Fieldings

Kerry keeps patients' schedule ticking over

SHE'S the smooth operator – ensuring that patients are booked in for surgery at Sandwell and City Hospitals without any hitches.

Mother-of-one Kerry Clarke has been working for the scheduled care booking team for 16 years and speaks to around 25 patients on a daily basis who will undergo a range of procedures – from oral surgery to prostate biopsies.

"As part of my role, I am here to ensure that the patient pathway for booking procedures runs smoothly and safely," explained Kerry, aged 46.

"The team I work within ensures we are six weeks ahead of our bookings and also fill any cancellations.

"On occasions, patients will ring up and ask to be considered for a cancellation.

Procedures

"I always keep a record of them so that I can offer them a slot should one come up. I deal with patients undergoing urology procedures as well as hand surgery, removal of cancers and general surgery.

"Due to the nature of some of the procedures, patients can be in a vulnerable position and so I make it a priority to be understanding and sensitive to their situation."

She added: "It gives me great job satisfaction being able to really help people – especially when they say 'thank you' for what I've done.

"I want to make sure I do a good job for all our patients."

Before landing her job with Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust with runs Sandwell and City Hospitals, Kerry worked for the supermarket chain Kwiksave as a supervisor. But when she discovered changes were in the pipeline at the superstore, Kerry decided to leave after seeing the job advertised at the Trust.

"I thought I would go for it and I've enjoyed it ever since," she explained.

"Over the years I've seen a lot of changes within the NHS as a whole.

"When I first started we used a paper booking system, but we've since introduced an electronic diary which has really changed the way we work."

Kerry also enjoys working with her team mates.

"We like hold fundraising events for various charities and there is a really good atmosphere amongst us. We have carried out sponsored shaves – including using an epilator on a male manager's legs!

"It's all part of the fun and great for team building."

Money raised for the organisation's Your Trust Charity goes towards enhancing the patient experience.

In her spare time Kerry loves to dine out and go on day trips with her husband Craig as well as spend time with her son Joe, 26.

She added: "My hero would have to be my manager Joanne McGirr. She is a very supportive boss, who I can't fault."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

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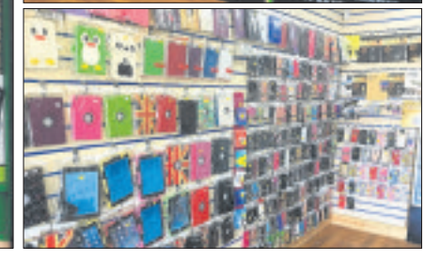
Last year, the trust provided care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight:
KERRY CLARKE
Patient Scheduler

COMMERCIAL FEATURE



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Bomb disposal team called after shock find

Incendiary device from war in loft

A SECOND World War ordnance has been found in a loft of a home in Cradley Heath. Emergency services and a bomb disposal team rushed to the scene in Mogul Lane, shortly after 3pm on Thursday.

Officers from West Midlands Police joined forces with The Royal Logistic Corps and Dudley Council at the scene following the discovery. The ordnance was confirmed inactive and removed by the team of experts.

Black Country historian Stephen Richards said he thought the object found was a German incendiary bomb known as a B1E.

Mr Richards, author of The Luftwaffe over Brum, said: "There were numerous types of incendiary bomb. The most prolific were of two basically similar types – the B1E (Brandbomb, 1kg Elektron) and a derivative fitted with a small explosive charge, the B1E-ZA. Incendiaries of both types utilised magnesium and were dropped in containers known as the BSK 36 which, as the designation implies, carried 36 1kg bombs.

"After leaving the aircraft the container opened in mid-air to disgorge its contents. Some incendiaries were fitted with a seven-minute delay fuse intended to deter interference by civil defence personnel."

It is the second incident involving the discovery of a Second World War object in the area in just a matter of months. Bomb disposal experts were called in earlier this year after a Second World War grenade was found in Cradley Heath garage.

A police cordon was put in place and residents were advised to leave their homes around Hillbank Road and Furlong Lane.

Police officers and a bomb disposal team at the scene

Part of the ordnance found, believed to be used by the Luftwaffe

Player dies of same brain disease as Astle

THE daughter of Jeff Astle hopes confirmation a second footballer has died from a debilitating brain disease will give greater impetus to investigating the issue.

It has now been reported that Rod Taylor, a former wing-half with Portsmouth, Gillingham and Bournemouth, died in April having suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, which is a form of dementia.

He is the second player to have been diagnosed with CTE after Astle, the former West Brom striker, who died in 2002. CTE, which affects behaviour and memory, is caused by repeated head trauma.

Dawn Astle has long campaigned for the game to investigate possible links between CTE and the heading of footballs, particularly the old-style heavy type used during her father's career.

Angry

The Professional Footballers' Association and the Football Association did initiate research last year but Dawn feels it has taken far too long.

She said: "This is fact now. We are not just assuming other players may have died of the same illness as dad, this is now fact. I still get really angry about it because this is what the coroner said all those years ago in 2002. It's as if what the coroner said didn't matter to football. Football did nothing.

"That the research has now started – 16 years after Her Majesty's coroner said my dad died due to repeated heading of footballs is shameful. This isn't a knock you have in a game, a metatarsal or arthritis.

"These people are dying and football didn't want to know. We need to keep fighting, keep pressing to make sure the footballing authorities sit up and listen."

Dawn Astle, who says recognition of the problem has taken too long

Jeff Astle, in action, who was one of the greatest at heading the ball in the game

CTE can only be definitively diagnosed after death and if the family agree to donate the brain for research.

This decision was taken by the family of Taylor, who was 74 when he died, earlier this year. Dawn said she recognised how distressing the situation could be but hoped other families would consider donating.

Dawn, who along with other family members set up the Jeff Astle Foundation in 2015, said: "I know how difficult it is but if we hadn't donated and done what we did with my dad, we'd never have known this. It shows the importance of brain donation. If this goes on to save thousands of lives, that is the only good thing that will come of it now.

A statement from the PFA said: "The PFA wishes to note that it is and always has been committed to a duty of care for all past, current and future members."

It added: "Following two years of research and development, in November 2017 the PFA and the FA commissioned an evidence-based study."

MEMORY LANE

By Thomas Parkes

Reg Keirle celebrates playing for 50 years at The Trumpet in Bilston

Reg with Dave Holmes who played with Tommy Burton

The Trumpet in Bilston, where Reg has been performing for 50 years

Reg performing at The Trumpet – circa 1985

Reg still hits the right notes after five decades

A JAZZ musician who inspired one of Slade's biggest hits has celebrated performing for 50 years at a Black Country pub.

Reginald Andrew Keirle, known as 'Reg' or 'Keirley', started playing piano at The Trumpet, in High Street, Bilston, in the summer of 1968.

The pianist was the inspiration behind one of Slade's biggest hits – Skweeze Me Pleeze Me – after Jim Lea and Don Powell saw him perform on a Sunday night, according to Powell's Look What I Dun autobiography.

Friends and family gathered around Mr Keirle to celebrate the 82-year old's legacy at the pub.

Mr Keirle said: "It was a complete surprise to me. I thought it would be an ordinary Monday night but it was great.

"Usually, you only get half a dozen in and when I went in it was packed.

"Musicians, old friends of mine were there – they've all become nice friends."

Reg started performing at the pub after watching Wolverhampton artist Tommy Burton and Dave Holmes – who was the first drummer to play at The Trumpet.

Reg has played for free at the pub ever since a fateful Monday night.

He added: "Tommy Burton was playing there and I went down to hear him and then I took over when he left and in the early days I was doing everything – including painting the walls just to get it going. It was only three, four nights a week but when a landlord came he was determined to have jazz on every night of the week.

"It was good and I played there on Friday once a week and there's one week night – on Monday – and hardly anybody came along so I did it for nothing and I've been doing it ever since."

The 82-year old said he still couldn't make 'sense' of music, but said he played 'by ear', adding: "We had a piano at home and as a kid I used to pick out the odd tune."

Reg said he preferred 'traditional jazz' which he could sing along to.

He said: "I like traditional jazz in the style and songs as well – I like singing swing numbers.

"I sing what I can play. If I can't play it I don't sing it. I just play by ear."

Mr Keirle's other job was as a commercial artist at The Express & Star.

Reg, who was born in Waterloo Road in Wolverhampton, now lives in Redditch with his wife Linda Clement Keirle and still performs at The Trumpet every Monday night.

He said: "Every Monday night I'm there at about 9.15am until 11.15pm.

"I like beer, that's my inspiration. I like the pub, the beer and I like playing the piano – that's good enough for me."

Reg as an art student in 1953, aged 18

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Parents urged to claim on childcare

WORKING parents and carers of youngsters in Tipton and the surrounding areas are being urged to claim 30 hours of free childcare.

All children aged three and four in Sandwell get 15 hours of free childcare a week – and parents who work may also be eligible for an extra 15 hours a week during term-time.

Parents must be working and each earning at least £125 a week, but no more than £100,000 a year.

Councillor Simon Hackett, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "I'd urge families who are eligible and want to take up the offer of more flexible, free childcare to apply for it now.

"The extra hours can help parents to increase their own hours at work and the offer is available with participating day nurseries, school nurseries, playgroups, pre-schools and childminders."

Eligible children qualify from the term following their third birthday until they reach compulsory school age.

Parents whos children are three by August 31 can apply for extra hours now to start in September.

For more information, call 0121 569 4914.

Cast metal workers institute HQ moves to Tipton training centre

THE Institute of Cast Metal Engineers has moved its HQ to the new National Foundry Training Centre in Dudley Port, Tipton.

The ICME is the professional body for people involved in the casting, foundry pattern-making and associated industries, made up of senior management and directors, through to metallurgises, CAD technicians, researchers, students and suppliers to the industry.

Report by John Corser

The National Foundry Training Centre is one of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills 'spokes' which recently opened adjacent to one of the Thomas Dudley foundry sites.

The ECMS is a new employer-led training facility for the Black Country, designed to enhance productivity by providing specialist training and helping to close skills gaps identified by employers.

The project is a £12 million collaboration between the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, University of Wolverhampton, Dudley College, Cast Metals Federation, Confederation of British Metalforming and the ICME.

The ECMS Hub will be based at the university's £100 million Springfield Campus and will deliver skills training through short courses and apprenticeships at three spoke locations – Tipton, Aldridge and Dudley.

Trevor Ayre, national president of ICME, said: "It is an ideal base for ICME to be located – we now have a facility that feels like the centre of the UK foundry industry and a place where members and students can have access to specialised training facilities.

"The ECMS Hub and Spokes will provide world-class training facilities, supporting the delivery of knowledge and skills transfer via training courses and apprenticeships.

ECMS chief executive Ian Fitzpatrick, added: "We are delighted to welcome ICME to its new home."

Black Country Living Museum poet in residence, Dave Reeves, seen in action

It's rhyming time at museum with Dave

THE Black Country Living Museum's poet in residence, Dave Reeves, will be helping people find their muse when he takes a poetry writing workshop next month.

The Tipton Road attraction will be the venue for the event on September 29. A museum spokesman said it would "draw on the built environment of the museum and delve into your own experiences.

"In a warm and supportive atmosphere, and using a variety of writing forms, Dave will guide you through a day of concentrated but fun writing, and will help you to look at your work from new perspectives and, perhaps, unexpected angles. The workshop is suitable for both beginners and those with writing experience."

Dave has held many writing residencies around the Midlands and was Literature Development Officer for Sandwell Libraries. He is currently involved with the Back in 10 project at the museum, as one of five artists presenting performances in different locations across the site every Friday.

The next takes place tomorrow, Friday, in Old Birmingham Road, set in the 1930s, with Gripton's Radio as a starting point, but spilling into adjacent areas.

Visitors can expect everything from mechanised soundscapes, the appearance of a genie, a promenade-wander blurring time between the present and the past, and a split story encountered from two contrasting worlds. This pilot activity will help with a larger-scale project in 2019, working in 15 shops across Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Black Country Living Museum. Back in 10 is part of BCLM's Summer Evenings programme: £5 entry after 4pm.

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Listen once more with The Feeling

The Feeling will perform their celebrated million-selling album Twelve Stops And Home when they hit the road for their first tour in two years.

It's been 12 years since the acclaimed album's release and the band will headline Birmingham Town Hall on October 22.

Twelve Stops And Home – named after the Piccadilly Line journey from Leicester Square to frontman's Dan Gillespie Sells' home stop of Bounds Green – was originally released on June 5, 2006.

Despite being largely self-recorded in the garden shed of Ciaran and Kevin Jeremiah's parents' Sussex home, the album was a hit-the-ground-running masterpiece of fiercely infectious, life-affirming pop, pitched in the rainbow-coloured realm between Queen, Scissor Sisters, ELO and Supertramp.

Five of the album's songs became hit singles (Sewn, Fill My Little World, Never Be Lonely, Rose and Love It When You Call), helping the band to become the most-played act on British radio in 2006, and earning them the Ivor Novello Award for Songwriters of the Year.

Dan says: "I'm so excited to be playing with the band again. To be performing an album that has always meant so much to me is going to be quite an experience. When we recorded it we were a bunch of lads working in a shed to create the kind of music we wanted to because we were doing what musicians do"

Red Lemons singer Jim Merris and guitarist Ian Willetts

Soul with Lemon sauce

ONE of the most popular Black Country bands of the 1980s, the Red Lemon Electric Blues Band, are getting back together for another of their popular reunion concerts in the Black Country.

They will be bringing along special guests and original fans TV celebrities Adrian Chiles and Suzi Perry.

The Black Country raised sports presenters both were also briefly members of the group during the early days. Suzi, whose father Tony managed the band, used to dance on stage with the group in the 1980s and Adrian, from Hagley, was briefly the bass player.

The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band, who built up a huge local following some 30 years ago, will play their 'spiritual home' with a gig at Stourbridge Town hall on September 29.

They formed in 1985 and became a hit playing Rhythm and Blues at their own headline gigs and supporting stars like Chuck Berry and Robert Plant.

They gained fans outside the Midlands, even even outside the UK, by performing at jazz and blues festivals. They played at the Royal Albert Hall as guests of Mencap and played on the bill with reggae star Desmond Dekker.

In 1991 the band was invited by Chuck Berry to be special guests on his UK tour. They also played on the same bill as Robert Plant and became regulars at Ronnie Scott's Club, when the famous London jazz venue opened a branch on Birmingham's Broad Street. Whitesnake's Bernie Marsden even guested with the band in Birmingham.

The soul and rhythm and blues group first got back together in 2015 to celebrates the 30th anniversary.

Tickets cost £24 (plus booking fee) via 0844 844 0444, online from www.ticketmaster.co.uk or from Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Festival date sees Busted make return

They've been conspicuous by their absence during a busy summer in which every weekend seems to bring a new festival.

Rather than appearing in fields and parks across the UK, Busted have been holed up in a studio creating their fourth album.

Singer-guitarist-drummer Charlie Simpson couldn't be more excited. He still finds it remarkable that the chart-topping band, who formed in 2000, still have only three records to their name.

Busted enjoyed two million-selling records during their first incarnation; the self-titled debut, which was four times platinum, and the 2003 follow-up, A Present for Everyone, three-times platinum. There followed a 10-year hiatus following their decision to split in 2005 and since then there's been just 2016's well-received Night Driver.

Charlie says: "We've been in the studio for the past few months doing the fourth record. But we've got a headline show at Solihull Summer Fest on August 26 and we're looking forward to that. Considering the weather we've had, if it carries on, it should be a lovely afternoon. We really look forward to these shows."

Solihull Summer Fest gives Busted the chance to dust away the cobwebs. They'll line up with Razorlight, Lightning Seeds, The Beat, the Sugarhill Gang and more at Tudor Grange Park on August 26. The previous day features 10CC, Sister Sledge, Blue, Alesha Dixon and Roland Gift.

Jonn Penney with Rat on guitar

Ned's duo added to bill as Shiiine moves venue

NED'S Atomic Dustbin bandmates Jonn Penney and Rat will perform at Shiiine On Festival in Birmingham.

The Stourbridge indie rockers will appear under the moniker Ned's Acoustic Dustbin at the one day event, which will now be hosted at the O2 Academy instead of the Genting Arena.

The duo join a line up of bands such as Orbital, Shed Seven, Embrace, Cast, and the Happy Mondays.

The event is also due to feature performances from Julian Cope, Reverend And The Makers, The Wedding present, A Certain Ratio, Glasvegas, and both members of Carter USM as Jim Bob plays solo and Les Fruitbat with his new project Abdoujaperov.

Also featuring on the bill is A Certain Ratio, Bentley Rhythm Ace, The Stairs, The Membranes, Thousand Yard Stare, Ivory Wave and Psyence. There will be DJ sets from BBC 6 Music's Steve Lamacq, Star Shaped, and Ocean Colour Scene's Steve Cradock, as well as two after-show parties featuring Todd Terry, Marshall Jefferson and Jon Dasilva.

Shiiine On Festival takes place at Birmingham's O2 Academy at Horse Fair on September 8.

The doors will open at 2pm and the festival ends at 4am, with live music from 3 to 11pm, after-show parties start at 11pm.

For more information visit www.shiiineon.com/one-day-festival and the organisers have apologised for any inconvenience caused by the change of venue.

Comic Wayne joins Black Country Night Out crew

One of the longest running shows on the entertainment circuit, A Black Country Night Out, returns this autumn with the addition of a young comedian from Dudley.

Over the years it has starred some of the truly great local entertainers such as Aynuk & Ayli, Tommy Mundon, Dolly Allen and Giggetty.

VETERAN

Most recently the show lost one of its most popular acts due to the death of veteran comedian Ian 'Sludge' Lees.

Ever the professional and despite illness 'Sludge' helped pick the comic to join the cast, one of the Black Country's most popular comedians and MCs, Wayne Beese.

The heritage of the Black Country Night Out carries on with a show full of talented entertainers.

Show regulars Dandy, husband and wife duo Alan and Glyn, are back as are the band behind the Black Country Anthem, The Empty Can.

Alongside Wayne, new regular faces will include comic and former rock drummer Ollie Spencer, plus Joe Thomas singing the songs of 1940s favourite George Formby.

Tour dates include Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 11, Bromsgrove's Artrix on October 3, Kidderminster Rose Theatre October 11, Cannock Prince of Wales October 17 and Walsall Forest Arts Centre on November 1.

Dudley's Wayne Beese

There will be One Love for Marley man

The timeless reggae music of Bob Marley will be brought to life again when Mitchell Brunings brings Marley Reprised to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on September 15 and 16.

Mitchell, who took on the leading role in Birmingham Rep's production of the Marley musical One Love last year and performed Marley Reprised 2017, is returning to Brum for a second year.

It will give fans a unique opportunity for a full evening of reggae legend Bob Marley's greatest hits, with Mitchell's soulful voice so very close to those rich Marley tones.

Due to sell out shows last year, two dates have been added for the 2018 return.

Surinam-born Brunings was catapulted into the limelight in August 2013 with his version of Marley's Redemption Son when he participated in The Voice Of Holland TV show. Nearly winning the competition as runner-up, Mitchell's YouTube videos kept him in the limelight and brought him into contact with the Marley family.

Toto recall as Rep seek a Wizard canine star

Birmingham Repertory Theatre are looking for a dog to play the role of Toto in their Christmas production of The Wizard of Oz.

Open auditions will be held at The Rep on Centenary Square on Saturday, August 25, from 10am to 5pm.

The role Dorothy's canine companion is a pivotal one and The Rep is looking for a canine star to join the company.

The show runs from November 24 to January 13.

The Rep is looking for two small dogs that have the enthusiasm and stamina to share the role over the seven-week run. No previous acting or stage experience is required, but good training and obedience will be.

Directed by Liam Steel, this stage version of the legendary MGM musical features all the classic songs including Somewhere Over The Rainbow and If I Only Had A Brain.

If you think your dog has what it takes,email dogauditions@birmingham-rep.co.uk and attaching a picture (max size 2mb). All owners and dogs must be available for auditions on August 25 and on September 8.

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Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

FIRST timer! Annette, 50s, passionate, loves cooking, life in general, rock music, WLTM mature male for friendship, togetherness, TLC, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431707**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 431239**

JAYNE, 42yrs, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60s, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431893**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, sophisticated professional lady, bored with chaps from work, hoping to meet a burly workman! Come on lets have some discreet times. Txt me. **Text Only. Box: 4164576**

LORNA 50s, slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431889**

JOAN, 61yrs, curvy busty lady. Own home, husband away. Looking to meet a gent of any age who appreciates a large lady and is willing to be discreet. **Text Only. Box: 4161032**

TINA, 44, fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431845**

ANNA, 53yrs, attractive blonde lady, with lovely curves. Seeking man any age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box: 429721**

BIANNA, petite female, 48, attractive, nice natured, sociable, many likes and interests, seeking independent male to share new interests, hobbies and lots of adult time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431841**

LINDA, 58 seeks naughty boy for no strings fun. ACA answered. Call now. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431601**

JANET 42yrs, looking for handsome prince to spoil me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 432011**

PHILIPINA, Asian lady, 32yrs. Respectful, kind with boyish figure. WLTM mature strong minded man. Looks unimportant but must be manly. **Text only. Box: 4161491**

CHRISSY 39 blonde, blue eyes, likes meals/days out, loves life and looking for someone new to share fun loving easygoing relationship, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431971**

MEGHAN, married, bored, looking for some excitement. I am 48yrs, attractive with a curvy figure, blonde hair and well dressed. Hoping to meet chap of any age for discreet meetings. **Txt only. Box: 4132478**

JAYNE, 42yrs, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60s, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431893**

CLAUDETTE, sophisticated light skinned Carribean lady. New to area & hoping to meet a white or Asian man for discreet no strings fun. I am 42yrs but age is just a number. **Text Only. Box: 4066199**

LYN 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 429909**

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTM someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431703**

SINGLE lady, middle forties, animal lover, especially dogs as I have two, enjoys walks, pubs and travelling. WLTM genuine male. **Text only replies. Mailbox no: 6361812**

PAT, 68, young looking, medium build, likes reading, meals out and holidays, looking for N/S gentleman. Midlands, Cannock and surrounding areas. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431547**

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, WLTM similar genuine male to wine/dine, enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431583**

DEBORAH lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431525**

HELEN, attractive brunette, 54yrs. Varied interests, GSOH & kindly personality. Hoping to meet genuine non-smoking gent. ACA **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431597**

CAROL 60s, petite blonde lady with a lovely personality. Loves most things in life & easy to please. Hoping to meet a gent who enjoys life, days out, company, romance. Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431599**

AMANDA, 36yrs, attractive lady. Solvent and well educated and spoken. Feminine figure with large breasts. Hoping to meet a broad-minded gent, any age for discreet relationship. I don't mind if you are married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box: 429287**

JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTM someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431703**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busty with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633**

NICE homely lady, down to earth, resides in Lancashire, WLTM a nice, gentle person, looks not important, must be kind, loyal and homely. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431755**

FIRST timer! Annette, 50s, passionate, loves cooking, life in general, rock music, WLTM mature male for friendship, togetherness, TLC, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431707**

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, WLTM similar genuine male to wine/dine, enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431583**

MARY, tactile sincere lady. N/S. Varied interests, GSOH and very interesting. Hoping to meet a kindly gent to enjoy life's pleasures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431605**

KAREN, 46YRS, witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431359**

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DEBORAH lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431525**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 60s, happy go lucky & fun to be with. Petite with dark hair & attractive features. Varied interests, dining out, puts, theatre, walking & reading. Give me a call or text, all replies responded to. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431417**

GENUINE mature lady, attractive with own home. Seeks gent with GSOH who wont let me down. If you are nice and want to meet then call me. Lets find happiness. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431609**

SHARON, mature dark haired lady. Smart & attractive. Seeking a gent for evenings out, dancing, holidays etc. Call to hear more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431611**

ANGELA, 57yrs young. Tall brunette with a bubbly personality. Loves fun. Hoping to meet a chap who can have adventures with me. Age unimportant. Lets live life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431615**

Single Men

MALE, mature, 72, fit, active, feels 50, looks 40, seeking fit lady, 65-70, genuine with a GSOH, for LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431753**

PAUL 55, please don't pass this advert by - read and see I am a genuine guy, slim, attractive, funny too, looking for lady, 40-60, like you. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 4172082**

72 year old chap, young at heart, GSOH, enjoys walking, conversation and all things chocolate. Seeking female companion to enjoy the good things in life with. **Text only replies. Mailbox no: 6375992**

MALE, 72, broad minded, fit, active, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks N/S, open minded lady, 65-71, for genuine LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431559**

I am P.J, 60-year-old single guy but look much younger, looking to date single girl. Just moved back to Birmingham area from Dublin. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6403520**

HI my name is Steve. I live in Worcester and am a non-smoker, 5ft 7ins tall, stocky build, looking for a lady for discreet naughty fun. Please get in touch. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6224648**

MALE 60s, WLTM mature lady for discreet meetings. Requires cuddles. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6394900**

JOHN, 59, looking for a friendly, honest person, some around 50ish, for going out, nights in and having a good time together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431677**

JIM, 56, married, very bored, looking for some excitement, I'm very naughty and would like to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431673**

MALE, 60, Wrexham, short grey-ish hair, average build, enjoys most things, walking, theatre, cinema, meals, seeks attractive, nice lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431553**

TALL, interesting, 60 something gent, N/S, car owner, energetic, regular gym user, Sandwell based, WLTM lady, of similar age, for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431451**

TALL, interesting, 60 something gent, N/S, car owner, energetic, regular gym user, Sandwell based, WLTM lady, of similar age, for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431451**

MALE, 50s, looking for a lady to have a long term 1-2-1 affair. Age/Looks unimportant. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6378322**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

MIKE, 60, from Wolverhampton, divorced, business man, own house, own business, WLTM an Eastern European or Asian male, 18-40, for fun and friendship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431681**

WARM, loving gent, 70 years plus, likes gardening, countryside, tea dances, coach trips, WLTM a lady, any age, with similar interests. Looks are not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431719**

Gay Singles

Join our Gay online service *FREE* visit: *localgaydate.co.uk*

BI late 70s, WLTM Gay or BI for friendship. I can travel. **Text only replies. Mailbox no: 6022718**

MALE, 74, 6ft, white, likes football, cars and lots of things, WLTM a male. Get back to me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431203**

BI male, 70ish, would like to meet same for friendship. **Text only replies. Box No: 6199442**

MALE, 60, seeks black male, 25-80, for sincere friendship, outings, and cinema. Any area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431827**

BLACK guy, 46, 5ft9, slim, genuine guy, looking for a one to one. I like dance, DIY, techno, 80s, 90s and old school. Looking for a white guy, 20-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 431563**

BI male, submissive, seeks discreet meets with male. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5560402**

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 16, 2018

SATURDAY'S TV AUGUST 18

CHOICE

Rick Edwards

Impossible Celebrities (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. Rick Edwards hosts a star-studded version of the quiz in which contestants compete for the chance to win £10,000 for charity, with a single 'impossible' answer knocking them out. Taking part are Angela Scanlon, Chizzy Akudolu, Debbie McGee, Dotty, Gregg Wallace, Iwan Thomas, Russell Kane, Spencer Matthews, Rachel Parris, Louise Pentland, Rory Reid, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Liz Carr, Imran Yusuf, Vicky Pattison, Ian 'H' Watkins, Craig Hill and Jorgie Porter.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. Live coverage of the 12th round of the Diamond League season. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Wedding Day Winners.

6.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. The duo embark on their first adventure, taking a trip to the moon when their cheese supplies run out. Bafta-winning animation, with the voice of Peter Sallis. (R)

6.40 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Impossible Celebrities. New series. Star-studded version of the quiz in which contestants compete for the chance to win £10,000, with a single 'impossible' answer knocking them out. Rick Edwards hosts.

7.50 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong quizzes eight writers – John O'Farrell, Emma Kennedy, Kathy Lette, Kate Mosse, Benjamin Zephaniah, Roger McGough, Terry Deary and Bryony Gordon. (R)

8.40 Casualty. The fall-out from the recent tragedy affects the whole department, and Iain confesses to Jan that he could have prevented it from happening but did not. His tormented conscience is pricked further by an encounter with an internet prankster who has had a similar experience of failing to avert a disaster. Dylan is reunited with Ciara, who is struggling to control both her own alcoholism and that of a friend whom she has persuaded to go cold turkey, resulting in a potentially dangerous shock to her system.

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from beyond the grave from her late husband. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League.

11.45 The Rugby Codebreakers. Carolyn Hitt presents a look at the Welsh rugby players during the 100-year amateur era.

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Marrying Mum and Dad. **7.05** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. (R) **7.35** The Dengineers. **8.05** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. **8.35** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. **8.55** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **10.00** Natural World. (R) **11.00** Miniature Britain. (R) **12.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.30** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.50** Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. (R) **5.50** Reinventing the Royals. (R)

6.50 Proms Extra. Katie Derham is joined by David Owen Norris and Lauren Zhang, who performs at the end of the show. Featuring a discussion of famous pieces by Grieg, Ravel and Debussy.

7.30 Dad's Army. Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere. (R)

8.00 Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain. The story of a bomb that fell on Jellicoe Street in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, a community of ship builders and factory workers who worked in difficult conditions. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Sandi Toksvig invites Aisling Bea, Corey Taylor and Ross Noble and Alan Davies to answer questions associated with nosey and noisy in an extended edition of the comedy panel game. (R)

9.45 The Boy with the Topknot. Born to traditional Punjabi parents and growing up in Wolverhampton, Sathnam Sanghera moves to London after graduating from Cambridge University and builds a career as a journalist. He tries to gather the courage to introduce his English girlfriend Laura to his mother and father and reveal he will not be entering an arranged marriage – but instead learns a painful family secret. Drama based on the memoirs of Sathnam Sanghera, starring Sacha Dhawan and Anupam Kher. (R)

11.15 Film: West Is West. (2010) A traditionally minded Muslim father in 1970s Salford takes his reluctant youngest son to Pakistan so he can reconnect with his roots. Comedy sequel, with Om Puri.

12.50 Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R) **1.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball On Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. (R) **11.20** James Martin's American Adventure. (R) **11.50** Eat, Shop, Save. (R) **12.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.20** £10k Holiday Home. (R) **1.55** ITV News; Weather. **2.10** The Chase. (R) **3.15 Film:** The Scorpion King. (2002) Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson. **5.00** WOS Wrestling.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 Japandemonium. A review of the best Japanese TV, showcasing some of the maddest and funniest moments ever broadcast, including Lo-Rider Hot Noodle Rodeo, and the infamous slippery stairs and dizzy lift ball catch games.

7.00 Big Star's Little Star. Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Ken Bruce, Faye Tozer and Jodie Kidd spill the beans about their famous parents, talking about their home lives, making heart-warming revelations or telling downright embarrassing stories. The contestants are all hoping to win as much money as possible for their chosen charities.

8.00 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers. (2002) Frodo and Sam continue their quest to destroy the all-powerful ring, bringing them face to face with the magical artefact's twisted former owner Gollum. Meanwhile, their allies prepare to make a desperate last stand against the vast armies of the corrupted wizard Saruman, who has declared war on a neighbouring kingdom. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Andy Serkis and Christopher Lee.

11.20 ITV News; Weather.

11.35 Play to the Whistle. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show. Last in the series. (R)

12.20 WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Eternal Glory. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Trail Running: Tenerife Bluetrail. **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 A Year in the New Forest. An unexpected heatwave leaves the forest facing its hottest early summer in decades, leading to an invasion of flies and other insects. While many animals, including ponies, cattle and deer fawns, struggle to cope with the intense heat, it proves a blessing for others – not least the forest's many species of rare butterflies. As the pace of life slows, the human residents are given a welcome opportunity to reflect on what makes the unique area so special and fragile. Last in the series.

8.00 Saving Planet Earth: Fixing a Hole. As climate change begins to feel like an impossible challenge, this documentary tells the story of the first man-made threat to the planet's environment – the hole in the ozone layer – and how the world managed to fix it. The scientists and politicians at the heart of the story reveal how they spotted the giant hole in the stratosphere and, against all odds, persuaded Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher to take action.

9.00 Film: Terminator Genisys. (2015) A soldier fighting in a post-apocalyptic war against living machines is sent back in time to prevent an attempt to change the past – but when he arrives, he finds that history has been changed beyond recognition – and that a plot is being hatched by an unexpected enemy to destroy the future of the human race. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

11.25 Film: Sin City: A Dame to Kill For. (2014) Crime thriller sequel based on the comic-book series, starring Eva Green and Mickey Rourke.

1.20 The Last Leg. (R) **2.15** The Crystal Maze. (R) **3.10** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.15** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **4.15** Rich House, Poor House. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The officers try to recover £13,000 owed by a high-performance car dealer in Birmingham, and in Wolverhampton the agents chase nearly £2,000 owed to a car hire company. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India. Highlights from the opening day of the Third Test, which takes place at Trent Bridge, as the five-match series continues. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Mark Nicholas, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly, Ebony Rainford-Brent and Charles Dagnall.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady is joined in the studio by a fellow dog lover, who has brought his four-legged friend with him to help choose between three mysterious women – all of whom have pets of their own on hand. Contestants from Guildford and Derby also go looking for love, and last week's couples return to reveal how their dates went. Last in the series.

9.00 Gino's Win Your Wish List. Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show in which a family from Cardiff compete to win a holiday in Vietnam, as well as assorted other prizes, including a trip to a yoga retreat in Ibiza and a home makeover. To win they must perform some magic, and play rounds of Stacks and Belt Up.

10.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' first full day at the mercy of Big Brother, where it remains to be seen who is playing up for the benefit of the viewing public.

11.05 Best of Bad TV: Most Shocking Ever. A romp through the most inappropriate, outrageous, ill-conceived and downright cringe-inducing moments that made it to air, featuring contributions from some of those involved. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Britain's Parking Hell. (R) **4.00** Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Wild Ireland: The Edge of the World **8.00** Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **9.00** Cardinal: Blackfly Season **10.25** Country Kings at the BBC **11.25** Top of the Pops: 1986 **11.55** There's Only One Madonna **12.50** Acoustic at the BBC **1.50** Wild Ireland: The Edge of the World **2.50** Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.55 Catchphrase **12.40** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **3.30 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **5.25 Film:** Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977) **8.00 Film:** Robin Hood (2010) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Robin Hood (2010) **10.45** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.40** The Cleveland Show **1.10 Film:** What If (2013) **2.10** FYI Daily **2.15 Film:** What If (2013) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
2.50 Film: Carry On Cowboy (1966) **4.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Newbury. Coverage of the day's racing from Newbury, Ripon and Newmarket. **4.00 Film:** Kelly's Heroes (1970) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Kelly's Heroes (1970) **7.00** World Series of Darts: Brisbane **11.00** Better Late Than Never **11.55** River Monsters **12.55** Minder **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 Film: Dr Dolittle 2 (2001) **1.05** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.10** The Big Bang Theory **6.40 Film:** Iron Man 2 (2010) **9.00 Film:** The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** Gogglebox **2.15** Rude Tube **3.05** The Inbetweeners **4.00** Rude Tube **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.50** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
11.00 Miracle on 34th Street (1947) **1.00** Cheaper By the Dozen (2003) **2.55** How to Train Your Dragon (2010) **4.45** Fantastic Four (2005) **6.50** Night at the Museum (2006) **9.00** The Heat (2013) **11.20** Kick-Ass 2 (2013) **1.25** Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992) **4.00** Close

What are Dental Implants?

Dental Implants *are essentially a substitute for a natural root, they are placed in the jaw bone in a position where you have a missing tooth.*

Once fitted they provide the foundation for either a replacement single tooth,

Can be used in combination with other implants to support bridgework or stabilise dentures. What are the advantages of dental Implants? Dental Implants will replace a missing tooth or teeth without using your existing teeth.

This can be advantageous because a bridge may involve compromising a good tooth, which may shorten its lifespan in some cases.

It may be that many teeth are missing, in which case implants are the only option.

Denture stabilisation can only be achieved effectively with dental implants.

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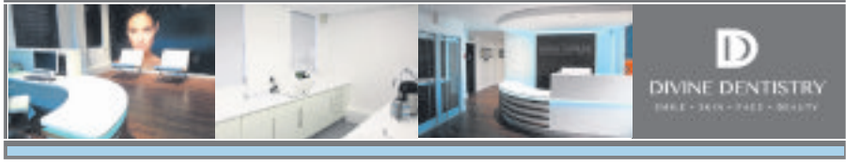

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More and more adults are seeking orthodontic treatment, and here Dr Tariq Mahmood answers some of the more common questions.

ORTHODONTICS

Are braces suitable for adult patients?

Regardless of your age, modern orthodontics will improve your smile and confidence. This can lead to improved health of your teeth and gums, allowing their maintenance to become easier.

Braces are now more acceptable to adults as they have become less visible and in many cases the treatment time is shorter.

Adult problems such as crowding and protrusive teeth can get worse if left untreated.

Is it difficult to adapt to braces?

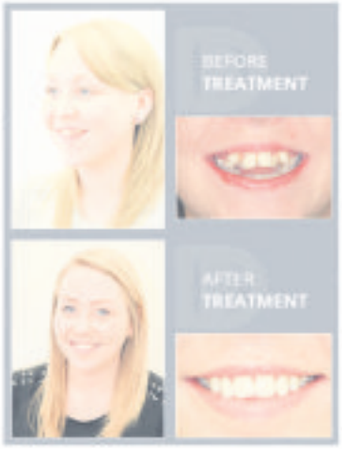
In my experience virtually all adults adapt very quickly especially as the teeth start to improve very early on. Many patients forget they have them on.

What's my first step?

You will need to have a consultation to see if you can benefit from braces. After examining your mouth you will be given a better idea of the improvements and costs involved.

Can I afford it?

The cost of treatment with braces varies depending on the severity of the problem and type of brace. They range from £1,500 to £5,000.



I don't want braces but I do want straight teeth. . .

Your options are to either have invisible braces, cosmetic veneers or a combination of both.

During your consultation, advice will be given on which option is best for your needs. It is important that you understand all the pros and cons before making an informed decision.

RETAINERS

It is important that retainers are worn after treatment with braces.

Often these are clear retainers which are near invisible and are typically worn full time for up to six months after treatment.

Night time wear after this period may also be necessary.

You should be given a clear indication on how long the retention phase will take at the beginning of treatment.

● Dr Mahmood is a partner at Asden House Dental Clinic in West Bromwich. For more information book a free consultation on 0121 500 6104. A portfolio of his work can be viewed on www.divinedentistry.co.uk

SUNDAY'S TV AUGUST 19

CHOICE

Martin Kemp

Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon
(BBC2, 9pm)
New series. Four teams of celebrities get behind the wheel of classic cars to compete in the Endurance Rally Association's Road to Saigon event, beginning in Northern Thailand and travelling 3000km through Cambodia and Vietnam. The teams consist of Noel Edmonds and his wife Liz in a MGB GT, married couple Martin and Shirlie Kemp in a 1972 Mini, mother and daughter Andi and Miquita Oliver in a 1959 Morris Minor, and friends Tinchy Stryder and Jordan Stephens in a Hillman Imp.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Match of the Day. (R) **10.25** Sunday Morning Live. **11.25** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Animals Behaving Badly. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Songs of Praise. **2.20** Fake or Fortune? (R) **3.20** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.05 Film:** Swallows and Amazons. (2016) Premiere. Drama, starring Rafe Spall.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile Live. This year's event comes from Blenheim Palace, where Matt Baker tries his hand at scurry racing and Ellie Harrison meets a taxidermist who does not use real animals in his art. Steve Brown goes backstage at the British charcuterie awards, John Craven and his pet dachshund learn about Churchill's love of dogs, and Tom Heap explores the impact of plastic on the environment. Plus, Anita Rani meets the winners of the Young Presenter Talent Search. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould must prove that a sketchbook is the work of a young Toulouse Lautrec, overturning a decision made by a committee of experts on the artist. The drawings in the book are of a very different subject matter to Lautrec's famous works, and are dated to when he was a teenager – a period of his life that is largely a mystery. To get to the truth, Fiona and Philip travel to the town in the south of France where Lautrec grew up and visit the grand family home where he spent much of his youth.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces highlights of Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester United at the Amex Stadium and Manchester City v Huddersfield Town at the Etihad Stadium.

11.30 Supermarket Shopping Secrets. Gregg Wallace goes behind the scenes with Britain's biggest food retailers. (R)

12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Coast. (R) **6.50** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.00** Sailing: World Championships Highlights. **3.00** Motorsport: Ulster GP Highlights. **4.00** Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth. (R) **5.00** Tribes, Predators & Me. (R)

6.00 Fighting for Air. Dr Xand van Tulleken conducts the first ever large-scale experiment using people to try and bring about a quantifiable improvement in air quality for a single day. (R)

7.00 Inside the Factory. Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey visit factories to find out how household staples are made and Ruth Goodman examines their history. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess plans for African coffee ceremonies, colourful wetsuits, fake tan and alternative energy.

9.00 Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon. New series. Four teams of celebrities compete in the Endurance Rally Association's Road to Saigon event, travelling 3000km through Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

10.00 Supercar, Superfam. New series. Documentary series following two brothers from a British-Pakistani family who own a workshop customising and revamping some of the world's most powerful sports cars.

10.30 Man Like Mobeen. Sitcom about a reformed drug dealer trying to look after his younger sister. Mobeen faces a moral quandary after an unexpected visit from the armed police. (R)

10.50 Man Like Mobeen. Aks is suspended from school for fighting, and Mobeen's uncles urge him to consider an arranged marriage to provide the girl with a female role model. (R)

11.15 Film: Just Jim. (2015) Premiere. A lonely Welsh teenager befriends his mysterious American neighbour, who gives him some lessons in how to be cool. Comedy drama, starring Emile Hirsch.

12.35 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Japandemonium. (R) **9.50** Cannonball. (R) **10.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **11.50** WOS Wrestling. (R) **12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.00** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **2.30** Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.25 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2. (2014) The webslinging hero battles a powerful new enemy when a downtrodden engineer develops lethal electrical powers, which he unleashes on those he believes have betrayed him. As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he faces an even greater threat when he is reunited with an unstable old friend who has been charged with a sinister mission by his dying father, leading to a series of tense confrontations that threaten to change his life for ever. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Dane DeHaan.

9.00 Unforgotten. The team discovers a number of items that appear to belong to Hayley in Tim's house, providing the damning evidence needed to convict him of her murder. He tries to protest his innocence, claiming he bought them for his daughters at a fete. His story seems to be backed up when Jessica and her mother reveal that none of the items found belong to Hayley, leaving the investigation back at square one. Meanwhile, a new discovery has a shocking impact on the detectives, but proves especially devastating for Cassie. Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 easyJet: Inside the Cockpit. In Paris, newly qualified pilot Ryan Clyde faces the prospect of conducting his first night landing, while back in the UK. (R)

11.15 Tonight at the London Palladium. The variety show from the West End theatre continues. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Peng Life. (R) **1.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.55** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.25** Homes by the Sea. (R) **4.30 Film:** The Devil Wears Prada. (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams. Arthur flies across Scotland, making for the coastline of Argyll and Bute. Along the way, he gets a lesson in the challenges of flying over the Highlands, boards a seaplane for a trip to Loch Lomond, visits one of the world's most celebrated tiny airfields, and goes in search of the wreckage of aircraft from the Second World War in Oban.

8.00 Hidden Britain by Drone. Tony Robinson sends aerial cameras into Britain's largest cave system and explores the secret beehives set up on the roof of Fortnum & Mason in the heart of London, providing customers with a constant supply of fresh honey. Plus, a visit to a recycling plant where aeroplanes are broken up.

9.00 Film: Bridge of Spies. (2015) Premiere. A lawyer in 1950s New York is hired to represent a Soviet spy in a showcase trial designed to demonstrate the fairness of the US justice system. In the face of public condemnation, he argues against the death penalty, a stance that years later leads to his involvement in an exchange of prisoners in East Germany. Steven Spielberg's fact-based Cold War drama, starring Tom Hanks and an Oscar-winning Mark Rylance.

11.45 First Dates. A 90-year-old visits the restaurant and hopes a ballroom dancing enthusiast is the woman for him, and a former brickie wonders if a glamorous PA will be his Ms Right. (R)

12.45 Film: Still Alice. (2014) Drama, starring Julianne Moore. **2.30** Building the Dream. A traditional Scottish cottage in the Firth of Forth. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Phil Spencer helps a beautician living with six dogs. (R) **4.20** Lost and Found. (R) **5.15** The Posh Frock Shop. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends: Thrills and Spills. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Pirata & Capitano. **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Holidays Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.10 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. **5.10** 5 News Update. **5.15 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) Concluded.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v India.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. Joe Pasquale narrates a special documentary celebrating some of the greatest pranks celebrities have managed to play on each other. Highlights include Ant and Dec setting up Simon Cowell in a classic Saturday Night Takeaway moment he would probably rather forget, and Eurovision winner Cheryl Baker falling victim to one of Noel Edmonds' "Gotcha" tricks. Ben Hanlin talks viewers through an elaborate hoax he pullled on former King of the Jungle Joe Swash, and more practical jokes come courtesy of Freddie Flintoff, Little Mix, and Game of Thrones' pint-sized trickster Maisie Williams. (R)

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house.

10.00 Film: Straight Outta Compton. (2015) Premiere. Biopic of hip hop group NWA. Starring O'Shea Jackson Jr and Corey Hawkins.

11.05 Access.

11.10 Film: Straight Outta Compton. (2015) Concluded.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** My Mum's Hotter Than Me! (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Eisteddfod 2018 with Jason Mohammad **7.30** Bute: The Scot Who Spent a Welsh Fortune **8.30** BBC Proms 2018 **10.30** Timeshift: Dial 'B" for Britain: The Story of the Landline **11.30** Ovid: The Poet and the Emperor **12.30** Jerusalem: The Making of a Holy City **1.30** Sounds of the 70s **2.00** Arena: American Epic **3.00** Bute: The Scot Who Spent a Welsh Fortune **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.25 Ninja Warrior UK **12.25** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.30 Film:** Spy Kids (2001) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** Spy Kids (2001) **3.20 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.25 Film:** Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) **8.00 Film:** Spectre (2015) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** Spectre (2015) **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.15** Ghosted **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
1.55 Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Victoria **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** Midsomer Murders **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.45** Blue Murder **3.25** Road to Avonlea **5.05** Judge Judy **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.20 FYI Daily **11.25 Film:** Cristiano Ronaldo: The World at His Feet (2014) **12.25** Mr Bean **1.30 Film:** Kelly's Heroes (1970) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** Kelly's Heroes (1970) **4.20 Film:** The Sting (1973) **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25 Film:** The Sting (1973) **7.00** World Series of Darts: Brisbane **11.00 Film:** The Missouri Breaks (1976) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** The Missouri Breaks (1976) **1.40** Minder **2.30** Barcelona's European Glory **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
1.30 Film: Volcano (1997) **3.35** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.50** The Big Bang Theory **6.45 Film:** Super 8 (2011) **9.00** Krypton **10.00** Fear the Walking Dead **11.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** Krypton **1.55** Fear the Walking Dead **2.45** Rude Tube

Film4
11.00 Porco Rosso (1992) **1.00** Endless Love (2014) **3.05** Carry On Cabby (1963) **4.55** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **6.40** Cowboys & Aliens (2011) **9.00** Ted 2 (2015) **11.15** Cheap Thrills (2013) **12.55** The Wind Rises (2013) **3.35** Close

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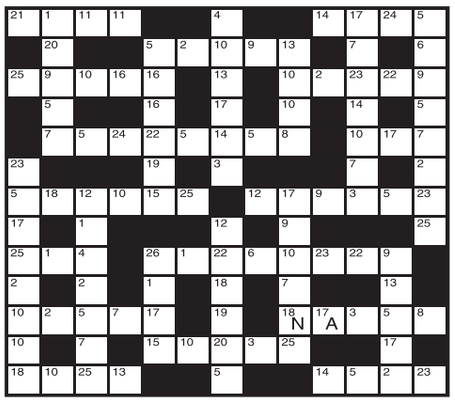
BRAIN GYM

No.493

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



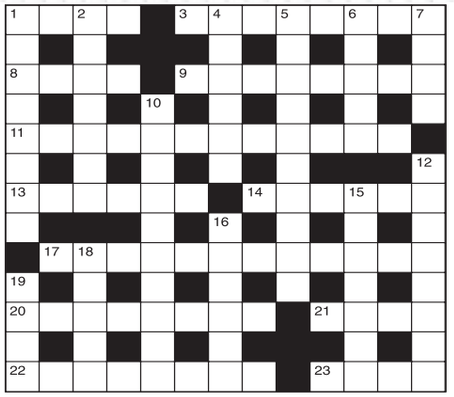
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17 A
5	18 N
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
U	T	Z	F	C	X	D	N	K	V	R	E	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	G	P	A	I	B	W	J	L	H	M	O	Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A good song? (4)
3. Possibly greets an N.C.O. (8)
8. A convict returning for a festive occasion (4)
9. In a convent it gives preferential treatment (8)
11. Service providing overhead savings for those in deep water (3,3,6)
13. A fair fighter? (6)
14. Sets out an increase in salary, we hear (6)
17. In sound condition, though possibly highly strung (3,2,1,6)
20. Ugly in an awkward way (8)
21. One has a lot of fun with it! (4)
22. Set off for school in time (8)
23. A worker's cards? (4)

Down

1. Celebrated form of mahogany (8)
2. Fever may produce first-class alarm (7)
4. Of which Shakespeare wrote a comedy (6)
5. A healthy breed of rolling stock (5,5)
6. What one says when taking French leave? (5)
7. Trifles – child's play really (4)
10. Road notice, perhaps, a job for a painter (10)
12. A desert's transformation vindicated (8)
15. Literary supplements? (7)
16. One way take battle formation (6)
18. Used in transporting other metals besides gold (5)
19. A pound of tobacco? (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Mediocre (2-2)
3. Ship's cargo list (8)
8. Park (4)
9. Talk (8)
11. Characteristic (12)
13. Anchorite (6)
14. Peril (6)
17. Loyalty (12)
20. Schoolmasterly (8)
21. Stupefy (4)
22. Reduced (8)
23. Kind (4)

Down

1. Unswerving (8)
2. Warrior (7)
4. Quantity (6)
5. Uniform (10)
6. Merits (5)
7. Row (4)
10. Aid (10)
12. Dignity (8)
15. Immensely (7)
16. Station (6)
18. Sum (3,2)
19. Hurried (4)

Sudoku

			1		9		5	
2	4			3			1	
	6				4	8		
8				4			9	
4		3	9		6	2		7
	7							5
		7	4				6	
	9			7			2	1
	8		5		1			4

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	5	9	6	7	2	1	4	8
6	8	4	5	9	1	3	2	7
2	1	7	4	8	3	6	5	9
7	9	2	3	1	5	4	8	6
4	6	8	7	2	9	5	3	1
5	3	1	8	4	6	7	9	2
9	4	5	2	6	7	8	1	3
8	2	6	1	3	4	9	7	5
1	7	3	9	5	8	2	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Obsolescent; 9 Aramaic; 10 Blame; 11 Easel; 12 Precede; 13 Hoarse; 15 Grotto; 18 Learner; 20 Realm; 22 Frost; 23 Toughen; 24 Head the list. Down: 2 Beans; 3 Oracles; 4 Escape; 5 Cable; 6 Nearest; 7 Take the lift; 8 Development; 14 A la mode; 16 Rorqual; 17 Crutch; 19 Noted; 21 Ashes. QUICK - Across: 1 Dead certain; 9 Egotist; 10 Lever; 11 Overt; 12 Caption; 13 Steady; 15 Revert; 18 Regalia; 20 Totem; 22 Track; 23 Contain; 24 Bernard Shaw. Down: 2 Erode; 3 Drifted; 4 Entice; 5 Tulip; 6 Invoice; 7 Demonstrate; 8 Bring to mind; 14 Engrave; 16 Extends; 17 Lancer; 19 Liken; 21 Tiara.

Quiz

1. Who played the title role in the 1995 film Batman Forever?
2. Which European peninsula is named after the Turkish for 'mountains'?
3. Which English philosopher was made a citizen of the French Republic in 1792?
4. Of what type of bird is the condor a variety?
5. Which flag is also known as Old Glory?
6. Since the Common Market began in 1957, which language has had to be used at its press briefings?
7. Which substances do Boyle's and Charles's laws concern?
8. After which Norse god is Wednesday named?
9. Which magazine coined the term 'nouvelle cuisine' in 1975?
10. At which football ground did Eric Cantona attack a fan in 1995?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Islay; 2 Doncaster; 3 Thyroid; 4 Four; 5 Order; 6 Kinder Scout; 7 Alligator; 8 George du Maurier; 9 Henry VIII; 10 Electroplated nickel silver.

Niner: FRIGHTENS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

126973 gives a lady,
921478 gives a second lady,
571287 gives a third lady.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Detached family home in a quiet cul-de-sac

A beautifully presented modern detached family home in a quiet cul-de-sac in Old Buffery Gardens, Dudley, lies a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents' Greatbridge branch, between Sandwell and Dudley, at £164,950.

The accommodation briefly comprises of a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a downstairs WC, three bedrooms, a bathroom, an en-suite, two allocated parking spaces and a rear garden.

In more detail to the front of this home are two allocated parking spaces, shrubs and borders and a main entrance door.

This opens to the entrance hallway which has stairs off to the first floor landing and an under stairs storage cupboard.

Having a double glazed window to the front, the lounge has a radiator and one ceiling light point.

The kitchen/diner has a double glazed window to the rear, double glazed patio doors into the rear garden, a range of wall and base units with roll edge work surfaces, a sink with a drainer and a mixer tap, an electric oven with a four ring electric hob with an extractor fan over, an integrated washing machine and an integrated fridge freezer.

The downstairs WC has a double glazed window to the front, one ceiling light point, a wash hand basin with splash back tiling and a low level WC.

Upstairs, the first floor landing has a double glazed window to the side, loft access and a storage cupboard.

Bedroom one has a double glazed window to the front, a radiator, one ceiling light point and a door into its en-suite.

This has a double glazed window to the side, a shower cubicle, a wash hand basin, a low level WC and a heated towel rail.

Bedroom two has a double glazed window to the rear, a radiator and one ceiling light point.

Bedroom three has a double glazed window to the rear, a radiator and one ceiling light point.

DUDLEY **£164,950**

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts Estate Agents
TEL: 0121 520 2255
EMAIL: greatbridge@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

- Modern detached home
- Beautifully presented
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom & en-suite
- Quiet cul-de-sac

Truly immaculate apartment is ideal

BIRMINGHAM
£850 PCM

Being in a prime location in the city, this immaculate two-bedroomed apartment in The Edg, 103 Springmeadow Road, Birmingham, can be rented through loveyourpostcode.com at £850 per calender month from September 1.

The property is available for a long term let only.

Off the entrance hall, the first room on the right is the combined living and kitchen area. Of a modern style throughout, the kitchen area has wooden flooring alongside a carpeted reception space. Opposite the living area is the family bathroom suite. It has a bathtub, WC and a wash hand basin and is finished in black tiling and white flooring.

The master bedroom is of a double bed size with a view overlooking the communal gardens. This room also has its own en-suite bathroom with a shower cubicle, WC and wash hand basin. The second bedroom is also of respectable size.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

Semi-detached property in need of refurbishment is on the market

WEDNESBURY
£140,000 >>>

Calling all investors! This three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Kent Road, Wednesbury, is in need of refurbishment.

Located a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links, it is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £140,000 with no chain.

The accommodation briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, a WC, and a front and rear garden.

To the front is a grass lawn and a pathway leading to the front door and into the entrance hallway, which has stairs to the first floor.

The lounge has a double glazed window to the front, a radiator, and a gas fire.

For further details or to arrange a viewing call Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 520 2255.

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Well-appointed mid-terraced in convenient popular spot

OLDBURY
£139,950 <<<

A well-appointed and presented modern terraced property, 184 Bristnall Hall Road, Oldbury, lies in a convenient and popular location, and has excellent accommodation.

It is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £139,950. It lies close by to Moat Farm Junior School, one of the areas most sought after junior and infant schools, adjacent to the busy junction with Salop Road.

It has residents' parking to the front and further allocated parking, a front garden with plants and bark chippings to the front door, an entrance hall, cloakroom/WC/store cupboard, kitchen with a built-in "Belling" oven, four-plate electric hob, extractor hood and stainless steel splash back, space for a refrigerator, ceramic tiled floor and a pantry cupboard. A staircase leads from the lounge to a first floor landing. Off this are two bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact Tom Giles Estate Agents on 0121 552 6171.

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2 | 3 | 1 | EPC

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2 | 4 | 3 | EPC TBC

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1 | 3 | 1 | EPC E

Keyte Close, Tipton
£265,000

2 | 4 | 3 | EPC E

Woden Road North, Wednesbury
£200,000

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Broadwaters Road, Darlaston
NEW
£125,000

1 | 2 | 1 | EPC C

Stanway Road, West Bromwich
NEW
£132,500

2 | 2 | 1 | EPC D

Stonehouse Cresecent, Wednesbury
NEW
£129,950

1 | 2 | 1 | EPC TBC

Oxford Way, Tipton
NO CHAIN
£137,500

1 | 2 | 1 | EPC D

Shelton Close, Wednesbury
NEW
£179,950

2 | 3 | 1 | EPC TBC

Old Buffery Gardens, Dudley
NEW
£164,950

1 | 3 | 2 | EPC C

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Five-bed residence is ideal for a family

OLDBURY
£344,950

An extended detached five-bedroomed home, 119 Tower Road, Tividale, Oldbury, has good-sized accommodation.

It is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at £344,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing, it stands set back from the roadside behind a driveway with parking for four/five vehicles. It also has a reception hall, a lounge/dining room with a glazed bow window to front and French doors to the rear garden. The dining room features ceramic tiled flooring and there is open access into the kitchen. This space has base units and wall cupboards with granite working surfaces, and a built-in "Ariston" dishwasher.

Contact Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171.

Perfect home for a family, spacious and well-presented

TIPTON
£145,000 <<<

This beautifully presented three-bedroomed detached family home in Sedgley Road, Tipton, is near local schools and travel links.

A perfect family home, which comes with a detached games room, it is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents by the modern method of auction, now priced at £145,000 with no chain.

This spacious home has gas central heating and double-glazed windows and briefly comprises a porch, an entrance hall, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, off-road parking, a rear garden and a detached games room which has electric points and heating. The frontage of the property has a lawn and parking for multiple cars.

Contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 520 2255.

SDL AUCTIONS

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196 Birmingham Road, West Browmich

A Vacant Freehold Semi Detached Property which has been converted into three flats

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9 Isaac Walton Place, West Bromwich

A Vacant Freehold End Terraced Property

Guide Price* : in excess of £50,000 (plus fees)

33 Wolseley Road, West Bromwich

A Vacant Freehold Semi Detached Property

Guide Price* : £39,000 - £44,000 (plus fees)

9 Jackson Street, Warley, Oldbury

A Vacant Freehold Mid Terraced Property

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* Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or – 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be + able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary. All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee.

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07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

Upholstery

RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC
No Job Too Small
FREE ESTIMATES
Choice of patterns | Quality Workmanship
SOFA WORKSHOP
Oldbury
Tel: 07816 818492 anytime
email: vince.gandley@yahoo.com

You should be able to trust the ads you see.
If an ad is wrong, the ASA is here to put it right.
ASA.org.uk
Advertising Standards Authority

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...
Call us on: 01902 319573
Post to: Advertisement Department, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Funeral Directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors
44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442
Dignity Caring Funeral Services
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS Stairlifts, Scooters, Wheelchairs and Batteries: Call 0121 522 3311.

2 Leisure Time

Caravans Wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
*CASH * WAITING*
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433.

Caravan Holiday home for sale
2010 swift Moselle £24,495
2 beds, bright open plan, well looked after, family shower room plus separate en-suite Castle view 5★ Caravan Holiday Home Park - Ultimate Coastal retreat
Minutes from glorious sandy beaches & world famous golf Course and Historic Harlech Castle .
Call Sue or Richard 01766 780328
www.castleviewpark.co.uk

holidays

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
" Weeks from £209 per couple
" Weekends just £99 per couple
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

mind, body & soul

Massage

Mobile deep tissue aromatherapy massage treatment by qualified therapist
By appointment **07437 569187**

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Antique Fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL, CALFHEATH, CANNOCK WV10 7DW
Sunday August 19th
8:30 AM - 3 PM
07783 680 627
ADMISSION £1

Markets

STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 16th May
07957 399964

3 Home & Services

Furniture

katharine house hospice
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

£1,250,000 STOCK LIQUIDATION
FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF ONE OF THE UK'S LARGEST COMPANIES OF LEADING BRAND HOME FURNISHERS. WE HAVE SECURED MASSIVE STOCKS OF SOFAS, SUITES, RECLINERS, CORNER SUITES, DINING FURNITURE AND BEDS. ALL MUST BE SOLD AT A FRACTION OF THE ONLINE PRICE. THIS IS A TRULY ONE-OFF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE A FANTASTIC BARGAIN.

NEWARK CORNER CHAISE SOFA IN LIGHT & DARK GREY CHENILLE
WAS £699 SAVE £300 TO CLEAR £399

EVERYDAY 2 SEATER SOFA/SOFABED WITH HEAVY DUTY METAL ACTION & INTERIOR MATTRESS
WAS £799 SAVE £430 TO CLEAR £369

ZEDORE VINCI ALL LEATHER SWIVEL RECLINER CHAIR CHOICE OF COLOURS
WAS £1119 SAVE £820 TO CLEAR £299

ELECTRIC MOBILITY CHAIR LIFT & RISE IN BLACK OR CREAM LEATHER
WAS £698 SAVE £350 TO CLEAR £348

NEW YORK TABLE & 2 CHAIRS HARDWOOD IN BEECH & CREAM
WAS £199 SAVE £100 TO CLEAR £99

LUXURY ORTHO DOUBLE DIVAN & QUALITY FIRM MATTRESS
WAS £399 SAVE £200 TO CLEAR £199
Other sizes & drawers option also available

Open Everyday 10am-5.30pm **OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM**
BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF. OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
INTEREST FREE CREDIT (T/C'S APPLY)

BLACK TWO seater leather sofa, 3 months old, £70 ono. Now TV box, as new £12. 07542 361678.

FURNITURE NOT SOLD?Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

SLEEP EASY 3FT ELECTRIC BED
with 2 drawers, in motion pocket adjustable, few months old, as new cost £650.
Sell £350 ovno.
01922 448643

Household Appliances

FREEZER AND DISHWASHER- medium size, good condition. £95. 07864 842076.

In Your Garden

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ
01922 712184

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
or 01922 712184

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also rooflights and box profile. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est. Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

Items For Sale

PICTURE FRAMING EQUIPMENT Guillotine, under pinner, mount cutter, much, much more. £350. Buyer must collect. 01785 661320.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED
STAMP COLLECTIONS BY PRIVATE COLLECTOR
CASH PAID
07867 477214

WANTED

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

PC's, Laptops & Accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

specialists at your service

Aerials

A AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST
Digital Aerials Fitted
Sky & CCTV Cameras
Free Quotes. 7 days
07850 330251

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Bathrooms

BATHROOM DESIGN All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms call: 07850 382548.

Building Services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 831316

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpentry & Joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £395. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

A CLASS Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Unbeatable Prices. OAP discounts. Call Paul 07870 341089

CCTV

RAPID CCTV & Alarms Cameras, supplied and fitted, data networking, domestic and commercial, same day service, call Robbi on 07960 173589/ 0800 633 5899.

Driveways & Patios

TW LANDSCAPES
Driveway Restoration Specialists
Cleaning & Sealing, Patios, Driveways, Decorative Gravel Drives
All aspects of Landscaping, Fencing, Patios, Walls
New Block Paving & Tarmac Drives
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
Free no obligation quotation call: 01785 878574 or 07845 483443

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists. Patios, Driveways, Pathways, Landscaping & more.
Special Offer £50 PSM
We will beat any like for like written quote
Free Quotes & Advice
01785 609076
(Based in Stafford)

Fencing

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gardening Services

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Handyman Services

HANDY MAN - All trades, washing machines, outside taps, showers, plumbing, heating, gutter cleaning. Free quotes call: 07850 559315.

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

SMALL JOB SPECIALIST plumbing, carpentry, locks. OAP discount 01902 683100 or 07934 460864

House Clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

Oven Cleaning

OVEN CLEANING SERVICE
Ovens, double ovens, grills, hobs, ranges and agas. All cleaned to a professional standard.
S&J Oven wizardz
01785 612517

Plumbing & Heating

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 13 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No skips needed. Load/remove any waste house clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIP & SELF DELIVERIES
BRING YOUR WASTE TO US
(any size vehicle)
General, green, wood (can work out cheaper than a skip)
OR
HIRE A SKIP FROM US -
Phone for prices
0121 557 3346
82 Pikehelve Street, West Bromwich, B70 0TU

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

J.H. HEATING AND PLUMBING
- Central heating installation and repairs
- Bathrooms supplied and fitted or fitting only
- Kitchen installation
- Tiling, replastering, carpentry and building work
- Electrical work

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
Tel: 0121 531 1932
Mobile: 07775 029452
www.jhheatingandplumbing.com
jhheatplumb@gmail.com

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

JACK RUSSELL PUPS Broken coated, bold puppies, 8 wks old, microchipped, both parents can be seen. £280. 07802 652512.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* **£90pw***
Rooms *from* **£65pw***
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

LARGE SELF contained flat, Hednesford, carpets, full CH. Ring for details 07909 775843.

TWO BED HOUSE IN CANNOCK
2 minutes walk from the train station, 5 minutes from town, recently refurbished, with new kitchen, bathroom, heating etc, just been painted throughout, good carpets, secure rear garden, off road parking for 2 cars, no Dss.
£650pcm.
07971 560336

TWO BED luxury apartment, Deansgate, Willenhall, en-suite, private parking. £525pcm. 07515 032538.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
We will buy your house fast!
Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!
Call 0121 663 1797
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

7 Jobs

Courses

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED
We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SIA)
Call 01299 879 015
Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk | www.abksecurity.com

Full Time General

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Chapman's Electrical are recruiting Apprentices in the following areas:
APPRENTICE SALES PERSON
Do you see yourself pursuing a career in sales? Are you interested in technology and the latest gadgets? Do you enjoy meeting and helping people? Are you enthusiastic, confident, keen to learn and a great communicator?
TECHNICAL APPRENTICESHIPS
Do you like to find out how things work and fix them when they don't? Do you keep up to date with the latest technology advances? Are you confident, friendly and self-motivated? Can you see yourself training to be an Electrical, Appliance Service or Aerial and Satellite Engineer?
If the answer is 'yes' then Chapman's Electrical would like to hear from you.
For further information, details of entry requirements & an application pack please email janel@chapmanselectrical.co.uk
Please state which career area(s) is of interest to you.
CHAPMANS

Dentistry

DENTAL NURSES AND RECEPTIONISTS required, GDC registered, Flexible hours F/T, P/T available - 7 days per week (8am - 11pm) Wage 12k - 20 k - negotiable, overtime & bonuses Immediate starts Apprenticeships available email CV info@scottarmsdentalpractice.com

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LOW MILEAGE

CITROEN BELLINGO MULTI SPACE
2009, 1.6 diesel, 66,000 miles, red .
£2,500
07932 084639.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN

MERCEDES A150 ELEGANCE SE
2005.
New Model.
Petrol. Manual.
Silver. 5 door.
E/W. alloys. Air Con.
Two keys. 74k. FSH.
MoT March 2019.
£550.
0740 5215217.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 206 LOOK
1360cc, 5dr, 02 Reg., in blue, only 81,000 miles, with service history, one former lady keeper, MoT, stunning condition for the year.
Only £695.
07963 464780.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL MARIVA DESIGN 1.6XP
57 reg., bright silver, MOT March, alloys, CD, front fogs, twin sunroofs, factory body kit, nice looking car.
£1,195
07415 013857.

Classic Cars

WANTED STORAGE FOR CLASSIC CARS
ie Barn, Unit, no work will be carried out, storage only.
01902 238022.
07734 412062.

Scrap Vehicles

A1 SF RECOVERY
SCRAP CARS WANTED
£100 Minimum Guaranteed
paid for complete cars
Collection 7 days a week
07813 184611

mainline Salvage & Recovery
• SCRAP CARS WANTED
• FREE COLLECTION
• TOP PRICES PAID
Fully Licensed • C.O.D Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Number Plates

B057 TAP
PLUMBERS MARKETING NUMBER PLATE
Available for immediate transfer.
Take your business to the next level for only **£695.**
07450 861956.

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

ELSIE ADA EDMUNDS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Richmond Court Nursing Home 33/35 Beeches Road West Bromwich B70 6QE formerly of 115 Lime Road Wednesbury WS10 9NF, who died on 10/01/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 19/10/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THURSFIELDS SOLICITORS
3A Dudley Street Sedgley Dudley
West Midlands DY3 1SA T537196

LICENSING ACT 2003
I What u Want Supplies OF Presleys Bar 95a High St Cradley Heath B64 5HE Herby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely For the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Mon – Sun 10:00 – 00:00 Regulated Entertainment, namely Plays, Films, Live Music, Recorded Music, Anything of a similar description Mon – Sun 10:00 – 00:00

Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to Trading Standards and Licensing Adult Social care, Health and wellbeing Sandwell Council House PO Box 2372 Oldbury B69 3BS, email: licensing_team@sandwell.gov.uk not later than 31st Aug 2018. A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
PMB LICENSING (Authorised Agents)
Dated 4th Aug 2018

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Langley Green Level Crossing, Crosswells Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure No.3) Order 2018, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crosswells Road, Oldbury between Western Road and Thompson Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 19/08/18 (10am) effective from 18/08/18 (10pm). Traffic will be diverted via Western Road, Tat Bank Road, Vicarage Road and vice-versa. Purpose – work to signalling equipment on level crossing barriers – Network Rail.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Locarno Road, Tipton) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Locarno Road, Tipton between Alexandra Road and Central Avenue. Traffic will be diverted via Central Avenue, Robert Road, Alexandra Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 31/08/2018, effective from 20/08/18. Purpose – Gas Mains replacement to by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Meadow Avenue, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Meadow Avenue, West Bromwich between Crabtree Road and Charlemont Road. Traffic will be diverted via Charlemont Road, Beaconview Road, Smithmoor Crescent, Crabtree Close and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 09/10/2018, effective from 29/08/18. Purpose – Gas Mains replacement to by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration & Growth
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.
This is a major application.
The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

DC/18/62046	Mr Mark Satchwell Sandwell MBC	Powke Lane Open Space R/o 55-91 (odds) Powke Lane Rowley Regis	Construction of new cemetery including: site remediation, widening of existing access off Powke Lane; office building and operational yard, parking, CCTV, lighting, landscaping and associated works.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
AMY HARHOFF, Director of Regeneration & Growth

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (Rood End Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Rood End Road, Oldbury between Fisher Road and Oldbury Point Industrial Estate. Traffic will be diverted via Birmingham Road, Oldbury Road, Mallin Street, St Pauls Road, Cemetery Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 20/08/2018, effective from 19/08/18. Purpose – remedial works to be completed by South Staffs Water.

PETER RUDGE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Ryland View Nursing Home, Arnhem Way, Tipton, West Midlands, who died on 11/12/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 24/10/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Nicholls Brimble Solicitors,
427 Bearwood Road, Bearwood,
West Midlands B66 4DF.

OLGA FARNELL (Deceased)
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Prices for Vauxhall's new Combo Life

By James Parker

Versatile, practical and spacious, Vauxhall's all-new Combo Life will arrive in showrooms next month priced from £20,530 on-the-road.

Aimed at active families and empty nesters, the Combo Life comes in two trims, Design and Energy, with Energy models available as either a five- or seven-seater.

Customers can also choose between two wheelbases: standard and XL. Its diverse powertrain portfolio includes petrol and diesels with either manual or automatic transmission.

Priced at £20,530 on-the-road, the entry-level Design 1.2-litre (110PS) Turbo Start/Stop 6-manual model features standard specification including air conditioning, DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth audio streaming and 16-inch steel wheels with styled wheel covers.

Moving up the range, the Energy trim starts from £21,970 on-the-road for the five-seater 1.2-litre (110PS) Turbo Start/Stop 6-manual model.

A high level of standard specification includes eight-inch colour touchscreen infotainment system, 16-inch alloy wheels and front and rear parking sensors.

If you need space for more passengers, the Energy seven-seater starts from £22,530 on-the-road for the 1.2-litre (110PS) Turbo Start/Stop 6-manual model. A high level of standard specification includes 35/30/35 split-folding second-row seats with fold-flat facility, two removable third-row seats and two foldable tables with cup-holders.

Combo Life customers can choose between a variety of turbo-charged, direct injection petrol and diesel engines, all of which combine driving pleasure with low CO2 emissions from 111g/km and fuel economy up to 67.3mpg.

All powertrains meet the stringent Euro 6d-TEMP emissions standard that comes into force for all new registrations from September 2019. The units will be combined with modern five- and six-speed manual transmission.

In addition, in a segment first, a low-friction eight-speed automatic with Quickshift technology can be ordered in combination with the top-of-the-range 1.5-litre (130PS) diesel.

Elsewhere, the new Combo Life is full of innovations that makes it a great choice for the whole family. It is equipped with two rear sliding doors and can be ordered as a five- or seven-seater, making it perfect for those needing plenty of room for people and luggage, such as a small sports team and their equipment.

The latest addition to the Vauxhall range makes longer trips more comfortable and enjoyable for the whole family, thanks to three individual rear seats, all with ISOFIX child seat brackets, and the optional panoramic glass roof. The Combo Life raises the bar for safety and comfort in this segment. It is fitted with technologies and driver assistance systems that are more commonly seen in the compact or SUV segments, such as Driver Drowsiness Alert, Rear View Camera with 180° bird's-eye view, Head-up display, and IntelliGrip, as well as improved comfort features such as heated seats and a heated steering wheel.

It is equipped with two rear sliding doors

There are split-folding, fold flat second-row seats

Customers can also choose between two wheelbases: standard and XL

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, August 16, 2018

Award-winning range gets new engine

Sporty engine for Vauxhall Insignia

Vauxhall has introduced a new 1.6-litre Direct Injection Turbo petrol engine to its award-winning Insignia range.

Available in Grand Sport and Sports Tourer body styles, the lively four-cylinder engine produces peak power of 200PS at 5,500 rpm and develops 280Nm of torque from 1,650-4,500 rpm. In Grand Sport body style, the Insignia 1.6-litre Direct Injection Turbo can achieve a top speed of 146mph and 0-60mph in 7.2 seconds. For the Grand Sport model, fuel economy is 44.8mpg (combined) with CO2 emissions of 146g/km.

In order to reduce particulate emissions as much as possible, the 1.6-litre engine features a close-coupled Gasoline Particulate Filter for optimum regeneration (i.e. oxidisation of the particles that accumulate in the filter). The Insignia 1.6-litre Direct Injection Turbo meets the strict Euro 6d-TEMP emissions standard, which includes real driving emissions measured on public roads and comes into force for all new registrations in September 2019.

Vauxhall's flagship Insignia range features numerous state-of-the-art technology such as adaptive cruise control, IntelliLux LED matrix headlights and ergonomic seats. Multimedia and Multimedia Navi Pro infotainment systems are also available. These are not only state-of-the-art in terms of functionality, the systems are also stylish and intuitive to use. Customers enjoy a large colour touchscreen, up to eight inches in size, while drivers also benefit from a Driver Information Cluster, which can be enhanced by an optional head-up display in combination with the Multimedia Navi Pro system.

Available to order now, prices start from £25,610 on-the-road for the Insignia Grand Sport SRi VX-Line Nav with the new 1.6-litre Direct Injection Turbo engine.

Could this concept be the car of the future?

Goodbye wing mirrors, hello live cameras

Audi has offered another glimpse of the technology inside and outside of its all-electric e-tron concept sport utility vehicle.

The company has revealed a closer view of its previously-announced virtual wing mirrors, which do away with the traditional method completely for cameras.

Blind spots are made a thing of the past with the new solution, as drivers are offered a full view of traffic on each side, via two live screens under the windows.

The e-tron also flashes yellow warnings on the screens whenever another vehicle is getting too close on the relevant side.

Audi's latest effort is focused on using a recuperation system not only when the car is already moving but also when it brakes, so that nearly all normal braking manoeuvres feed energy back to the battery.

The concept is able to go from zero to 62.1 miles per hour in less than six seconds.

Outside the vehicle, you will also find electronic flaps for the two DC and AC electric charging points that open and close automatically.

Elsewhere, Audi's concept car offers live 360-degree footage of the car's surroundings, that the driver can navigate around on a touchscreen – although the company is keeping this feature under wraps for now.

The all-electric Audi e-tron SUV is expected to be officially revealed later this year.

Top tips on how to clean your car's interior yourself

Fancy saving yourself some money by cleaning your car's interior yourself? It might take a bit longer, but this step-by-step guide will make your interior 'as new' in no time.

For many, a clean exterior is of more value than the interior. Most of us, probably without admitting it, would rather the outside of our cars were lovely and shiny for others to see, but allow the inside of our cars to turn into a tip. If you have a look inside some cars, they're littered with empty crisp packets, water bottles and coffee cups, and the end result can be anything from mildly distasteful to borderline hazardous.

The problem is many think that taking a bin bag to the car and giving it a quick five-minute vacuum qualifies for an interior clean, but to get the cabin of your car looking its best, a little extra effort is generally required.

Handily this step-by-step guide will have your interior spick and span in no time.

1. The first step is to empty it of any rubbish, whether that be unwanted receipts, sweet wrappers or empty bottles. Whatever it is, just take a bin bag and fill it with anything you no longer need in your car.

2. One of the main errors most make is not taking the mats out of the car when cleaning it. While mats are great at covering the floor beneath, bits of dirt and stones always get trapped underneath. Take the mats out.

3. Clean the mats outside of the car. This could be by taking them into your house to clean, or you can even lay down a blanket on the floor and clean the mats at the roadside. It sounds picky, but there's absolutely no point going to the bother of cleaning a mat if the underneath is covered in stones.

4. Next, thoroughly vacuum the entire car. Move the seats backwards and forwards to access all areas, including down the side of the seats, too, where a lot of dirt gets trapped. Try and get in every nook and cranny.

5. Spray an interior shampoo/cleaner on all fabric surfaces (including the mats) and scrub the carpets to extract any dirt. Wet vacs (that extract dirt by machine) can be used, but are only really needed on heavily soiled interiors.

6. Next, the pedals – an area most overlook. Wet the pedals and get a stiff, damp brush to extract the dirt. It's amazing what hides on them.

7. Time to tackle any trim. On any soiled or muddy plastic trim, use a general trim cleaner and spray it on the affected area and wipe off.

8. Leather next. Use a leather cleaner and spray it on the surface. Use a damp cloth to scrub the leather, before leaving it for a few minutes and wiping any remaining residue with a clean dry cloth. For particularly dirty areas – driver's seat, steering wheel, etc, you can use a leather brush to help with this.

You must take the mats out of your clean, clean them outside and then clean the inside

9. Time to tackle the rest of the car. Use a trim cleaner/dressing to go over any plastics – the door cards, dashboard, any cup holders, dash buttons. Spray this on a cloth and wipe over, before removing any remaining product not long after with a new clean cloth. You can even use special interior brushes to help get out any dust that gets trapped in any areas such as air vents and between buttons.

10. Don't forget the door shuts and boot shuts. If these are heavily soiled it's best to clean them with soapy water and dry them, but if there's only light dirt on them, you can do this with the same interior cleaner already used on the interior.

11. Glass is important too. Use a dedicated car glass cleaner and glass cloth for optimum results.

12. It might seem like a faff, but go around and give the car a quick vac again – it's amazing the amount of dust you'll have picked up from the interior when you've properly cleaned it.

13. Put the mats back in.

14. Not everyone likes an air freshener, but if you like the smell of them, put one in to help it keep things fresh.

Use a dedicated car glass cleaner for best results

And there you have it – one clean interior. It might have taken you a while, but we guarantee if you followed our step-by-step guide, you'll have a spotless interior – the sort you'll never get from a quick whizz through with a vacuum. We guarantee that the effort is worth it.

New petrol option for Volvo models

Volvo has increased the number of available powertrain options for its S90, V90 and XC90 models with the addition of an all-new petrol engine.

Also available on the V90 Cross Country model, the new 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine has been designed to provide decent performance alongside excellent economy figures.

As such, the engine delivers 247bhp and 350Nm of torque, while returning 42.8mpg and emitting just 154g/km CO2 in the V90 and S90, and 38.2mpg and 172g/km CO2 in the V90 Cross Country.

Performance is brisk, with the sprint to 60mph dispatched in just 6.8 seconds in the V90 and S90, and 7.2 seconds in the V90 Cross Country.

The economy figures for the XC90 T5 are just as impressive. Volvo claims 35.9mpg on the combined cycle, while emissions are set at 184g/km CO2. Reaching 60mph takes just 7.7 seconds.

Jon Wakefield, managing director of Volvo Car UK, said: "The T5 petrol engine is a superb addition to the S90, V90 and XC90 ranges. This cutting-edge engine brings increased choice for our customers, and offers strong performance with excellent efficiency and refinement. We're sure it'll be a hit with retail and business users alike."

Powertrain options for the S90. V90 and XC90 models have been increased

The engine has been created with lightweight aluminium and aluminium alloy, helping to keep the car's overall weight down and as standard, power is driven through an eight-speed automatic gearbox.

Prices for the S90 T5 in R-Design trim start at £41,420, while a T5 V90 R-Design will cost from £43,120. The V90 Cross Country, meanwhile, commands a slightly higher premium of £44,685.

The larger, seven-seater XC90 T5 costs from £50,435 in Momentum specification.

National Over 70s winner Ian Garvey, right, with finalist Hans Bilson and, left, Mike Harris tournament organiser

Les Davies, Roy Bradley and Ian Garvey who represented their club in major championships

Another win for Ian Garvey who has a wealth of trophies

70 – but racketball ace Ian plans to carry on

IAN GARVEY continues to prove that age is no barrier to sporting success.

The 70-year-old racketball ace has just added another national title to his sizeable list of achievements – nearly 50 years after being advised not to play sport.

A serious knee injury curtailed Garvey's footballing days when he was in his mid-20s and, according to a doctor, should have meant an end to any strenuous physical activity.

But Garvey, from Stourbridge, had other ideas and decided to take to the squash courts for his sporting fix. A series of operations over the years on his knees, hip and shoulder, have failed to slow the Norton resident down with racketball taking over from squash as his number one sport.

And the sprightly septuagenarian shows no signs of calling it a day on the courts just yet, having been crowned champion in the over-70s category at the National Squash 57, the new term for racketball, Championships at the Edgbaston Priory Club.

Prepare

The victory was all the more remarkable as Garvey had not participated in the nationals since 2008, and underwent major hip surgery in 2009 and a full shoulder reconstruction in 2012.

And Garvey, who has now won 19 national racketball titles, believes this is his greatest victory to date.

"I think this is my best achievement yet, having not figured in the nationals for a long time," he said.

"I had said I was going to call it a day because I have had operations on my hip and shoulder, and my knees are feeling the strain a bit. But I'm going to carry on playing. My wife, Carol, is a bit worried about me playing at my age but I still enjoy it and it keeps me fit and active."

Garvey enjoyed 3-0 victories over John Shingler (Priory) and John Hopkins (Solihull) in the quarter and semi-finals respectively to earn a shootout for silverware with the number one seed, Leicester's Hans Bilson. The final was a very tight 50-minute encounter with Garvey battling through to win 3-1 (9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-5).

"I won the over-70s competition at my club, Stourbridge Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, earlier in the year and I think that helped prepare me for the nationals," added Garvey.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"I smashed my knee up playing football, I damaged my cruciate ligament, and I was told not to play sport. I have had a few operations on my knees but they have held up over the years"

He has been a member at the Stourbridge club for more than 40 years and played county squash before turning to racketball in the late eighties.

He plays a couple times a week in the afternoon leagues which are open age affairs and see him pitted against younger opponents.

"I played squash until I was about 35 and have been playing racketball since then," said the semi-retired asset finance broker.

"I play in the afternoon league at the club each week. I have managed to win that for the last four years so I am there to be shot at now, I suppose!

"It's open age so I can be up against players who are a bit younger than me. But that doesn't bother me, I don't think about the age, and the experience I have helps."

The latest trophy will take pride of place in a huge collection. Since taking up the sport he has also claimed national glory twice in the over-40s category, four times at over-45, once at over-50, and a double success at over-55.

In addition to his single successes, he has also bagged one men's open doubles title and four over-45s doubles wins. And he has been a national finalist on another eight occasions in various singles and doubles events.

"I have won a few titles and I suppose it's not too bad considering I was advised not play sport again in my mid-20s," he said.

"I smashed my knee up playing football, I damaged my cruciate ligament, and I was told not to play sport. But I started to play squash in my late 20s. I have had a few operations on my knees but they have held up over the years.

"I played in the Birmingham League when I lived in Halesowen and then joined Stourbridge when we moved to Norton in the late 70s."

Not surprisingly, Garvey was also a hit on the squash court where he helped Stourbridge win 11 Worcestershire League titles and five cups while he went through one season with a perfect record of 16 wins from 16 games.

He then turned his attentions to racketball and captained the club to nine West Midlands League Division One successes between 1993 and 2002, doubling five of those wins up with the cup for good measure. Amazingly he lost just one game in those 10 seasons.

And with Garvey showing no sign of easing up, he is delighted to see a boom in the sport he loves.

Leagues

"There are quite a lot of people playing the sport now," he said. "The racket and ball are bigger than those you use in squash and it's probably a bit easier to play.

"At our club, we have winter and summer leagues and there are about 15 divisions in each, so the sport is becoming really popular."

Sport is very much a part of the Garvey family make-up.

"My dad, Geoff, played alongside the great Wolves player and manager Stan Cullis in various war-time matches in the 40s," said Garvey.

"I have got programmes from games he played at Craven Cottage and Stamford Bridge and he played with numerous professionals.

"My son Mark was a goalkeeper and he played for Stourbridge and Halesowen. And my grandson Ryan is also a goalkeeper and is just starting out with Cookley.

"Sport runs in the family and hopefully I will carrying playing for a few more years yet."

City duo added to Gavin warm-up bill

A BIRMINGHAM boxing duo have been added to Frankie Gavin's European welterweight title warm-up next month.

Middleweight Daryl Pearce and super welterweight, Jordan Clayton are now also on the bill at Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway.

Gavin, the former Commonwealth and British Champion takes on Kerman Lejarraga in the Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. Gavin is determined to bring home the European title, and, the 32-year-old will take part in the warm-up bout in his home city as he steps up his campaign.

The five-fight dinner show will also feature Gavin's stablemate Brad 'Bosh' Thomas, and Central Area heavyweight champion, Kash Ali, as well as Walsall super welterweight Levi Ferguson.

The show, 'Bilbao Bound', takes place on Sunday, September 16. Tickets are £65 to include a two-course Sunday lunch or £35 standard unreserved.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 07900 741 617.

Masters degree for former Wolves player

FORMER Wolves player Seyi Olofinjana has been awarded a Masters of Sport Directorship (MSD) by Manchester Metropolitan University Business School.

Former Nigeria international Olinjana, a coach with Scott Sellars' Under 23s side at Molineux, played for Wolves for four years until 2008. He is one of only the second group of prominent sports and business people to be awarded the masters degree. These included former Warwickshire and England cricketer Ashley Giles and former Albion footballer Michael Appleton.

Olofinjana said: "Over a fascinating and challenging journey studying for the MSD we have covered a wide range of topics including leadership, management, and innovation as well as sports governance. A focus on managing staff and athletes looked in depth at achieving the highest level of performance and success. All of this will undoubtedly prove invaluable in my role coaching young people at Wolves."

Young golfers tee up place in national final

TWO West Midland golfers have qualified for the national final of the American Golf Junior Championship.

The Chase Golf Club's Chloe Williamson and Enville Golf Club's Ewan Humphries will participate in the event October, covered on Sky Sports.

Williamson progressed after an outstanding performance in the qualifier at High Legh Park Golf Club, Cheshire, and, despite entering the competition to 'gain experience for future competitions', she finished in second place after a strong back nine holes.

Humphries, from Stourbridge, had an equally as impressive showing at Gaudet Luce Golf Club, Droitwich, winning the upper net category by scoring 31 points off a handicap of 36.

Both Williamson and Humphries will play in the UK & Ireland final at Gainsborough Golf Club, sponsored by Ping. John Clark, managing director of Ping Europe, said: ""We're delighted to be continuing our partnership with American Golf and being part of this fantastic event yet again."

Sport

Ian's still making a racket at age of 70

Page 35

Goodman's Don good in golf contest

FORMER Albion hero Don Goodman proved he is an all-round sporting star after winning the Celeb-Am Farmfoods British Par 3 Championship.

Don Goodman

The former striker, who played 158 times for the Baggies, finished in three over par – beating the likes of former Scotland manager Gordon Strachan OBE and ex-England rugby player Austin Healey.

Goodman's fiercest competitors came in the form of ex- Villa midfielder Lee Hendrie and BBC Sport presenter Dan Walker, who shot rounds of eight over and five over respectively. However, it was Goodman's round – in which he bagged four birdies – that proved enough to clinch victory.

Two-time Major winner, and Europe's most successful ever Ryder Cup captain, Tony Jacklin hosted the event, at Naillcote Hall, in Warwickshire.

He said: "There were some pretty impressive scores flying about, none less of course than Don Goodman who was a deserving winner. It was tightly contested at several points in the day, but in the end his score was unbeatable."

Dartmouth still on target for shot at the Premier title

WEST Bromwich Dartmouth are still in contention for the Birmingham League Premier division after defeating Kenilworth Wardens by six wickets at Glasshouse Park.

Devastating opening spells by Shozair Ali (4-39) and Brinder Phagura (4-40) reduced Wardens to 64-9 before they were fell for 105. An even better effort by Wardens' Prerak Mankad (4-36) saw Dartmouth slip to 39-4 in response.

But opening batsman Omar Masood resisted and his unbeaten knock of 56 steered Dartmouth to victory with the help of Ian Stevenson (22 not out).

David Ball (71) and Aarib Khan (56) posted half-centuries as Dorridge closed on 229-9 in 50 overs, against Smethwick, with left-arm spinner Gurinder Singh taking 5-42 for the visitors. In reply, Smethwick, leading by 47 from Faisal Shahid, had reached 131-3 when the rain arrived, and they were, subsequently, declared winners by eight runs by DLS.

In the third division, an unbroken fifth wicket stand of 109 between Matt Bradley (88 not out) and Josh Banks (67 not out) took Stourbridge to 231-4 from 50 overs before reducing visitors Old Hill to 67-5 from 27 overs, when rain stopped play. With the players unable to resume, Stourbridge were winners by 69 runs.

Medal success for Tae Kwon-Do teens

Lauren and Tore, both 18, with Vince Farquharson

AMATEUR squad Dudley Tae Kwon-Do came home with three medals from the International World Championships at Arena Birmingham.

More than 2,000 competitors from 22 clubs took part at the two-day event. Dudley's 18-year-old Lauren Pope returned with a silver medal in the Middleweight Women's Green Belt category, while 18-year-old Tore Lamont returned with a bronze in the Blue Belt Patterns and, after four tough fights, a bronze in the Middleweight Men's Blue Belt category. Instructor of Dudley Tae Kwon-Do, and head instructor of West Midlands Tae Kwon-Do, World Master Vince Farquharson said: "I am extremely proud of all our competitors and I am over the moon to see two young fighters coming home with some medals. This was Lauren and Tore's first ever world championships and we will keep raising their game."

He said West Midlands Tae Kwon-Do are currently building their competing squad and aim to bring back multiple World Titles at the next international championships.

MOORE JOY AS JAY TAKES OFF

BAGGIES boss Darren Moore says Jay Rodriguez's performance on Saturday proves Albion were right to reject Burnley's £16 million bid for him.

Rodriguez scored twice and had a hand in a third as Albion edged a seven-goal thriller with Norwich City to get their first Championship win of the season.

It came just two days after the transfer window shut and Rodriguez was denied a move back to his hometown club.

Albion wanted £20m for the striker, but there were concerns that the Baggies should have cashed in and spent the money on new players.

But Rodriguez has responded like a consummate professional and Moore says the decision to keep him was justified.

"Absolutely," said Moore. "We're delighted to have him with us because that's what he can bring. His two goals just showed what a quality player he is. But there's so many things other than scoring goals that Jay brings to the team."

Both of Rodriguez's goals owed a lot to his new strike partner Dwight Gayle, who won the penalty for his first and stole possession high up the pitch for his second.

Albion only have three strikers in their squad at the moment, but Gayle looked dangerous and Hal Robson-Kanu netted an important fourth off the bench.

"Hopefully the combination (of Gayle and Rodriguez) and the potential they have in this league and their record for scoring goals at this level will be crucial for us a team," said Moore. "We've got a goal threat on the pitch, aided by (Matt) Phillips, (Harvey) Barnes and Hal."

Rodriguez nearly scored a hat-trick at Carrow Road, but afterwards, he said getting the first win of the season over the line was the most important thing. He says the Baggies are not yet the finished article, but is confident the majority of the squad has the right attitude.

Jay Rodriguez celebrates the first of his two goals at Norwich on Saturday, in the seven-goal thriller

Bayliss hails Woakes' impact for England

TREVOR BAYLISS is heartened England have hit on a winning formula against India – even without Ben Stokes.

Warwickshire's Chris Woakes proved a highly able deputy for England's premier all-rounder – with a maiden century in his comeback test after injury, and a match haul of 4-43 too – as the hosts went 2-0 up. Asked if he was happy with the balance of the team in Stokes' absence, he said: "I think so, but it depends on where we play. We went with the extra quick, and it worked out." Bayliss added: "The first Test was a dogfight, and this one looked like being the same at four or five down in the first innings. (But) Jonny and Chris Woakes batted extremely well, and then the bowlers did the business."

England have named an unchanged squad for the Third Test, starting on Saturday at Trent Bridge. But captain Joe Root said: "Obviously, it would be a dream to put in five complete performances and have five wins. But it's important we don't get complacent."

It's streaky Bacon for contest win

BIRMINGHAM skipper Tom Bacon stormed to a 15-point maximum as he won Cradley's F.A.S.T Golden Hammer individual.

It was a keenly fought contest at Monmore Green which went down to the final set of heats.

Both Bacon and former Heathens' favourite Danny Ayres had made a series of impressive gates to win all four of their opening rides before meeting in Heat 18. And while it was Ayres who made the best gate in that one, it was the Brummies man who showed no fear to squeeze through a gap around the outside off bend number two to send the Perry Barr fans home happy.

Said Bacon: "I was really looking forward to the meeting in the build-up and I knew it wasn't going to be easy.

"There were a lot of fast guys out there and fortunately I made some really quick starts. It was tight with Danny in that last one but I managed to get through and I knew that was enough to win the meeting.

"I'm absolutely delighted to join such a brilliant list of names who've won this even in years gone by and this is an achievement I'm proud of.

"It's been a really good season for me personally; I feel like I've made plenty of progression and coming out on top in a line-up as strong as this shows that I guess."

Heathens are next in action on September 10, the first leg of the national league trophy final against Mildenhall.

Baggies hoping to bring in right-back

ALBION are hoping to bring in a right-back on loan before Saturday's home match with Queens Park Rangers – and are eyeing up Crystal Palace's Joel Ward. Boss Darren Moore has been in the market for a right-back, but has been unable to sign one so far.

Ward could be available following Aaron Wan-Bissaka's impressive start to the season under Roy Hodgson.

The Baggies are hoping to bring him in on loan with a view to a permanent deal, and are looking to spend around £4 million. Moore has been left frustrated in his pursuit of a right-back this summer.

★★★

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